

DAILY REPORT

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LEADERS DIFFER ON APPROACH TO KOREA TALKS

Abe Urges Active Role

OW130319 Tokyo KYODO in English 0306 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Tokyo Jan 13 KYODO -- Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe said Friday Japan will actively work to restore peace on the Korean peninsula.

Abe told a press conference close exchanges of opinions are being held between Tokyo and Washington on the latest development, which included North Korea's fresh proposal for peace talks with the South and the United States. Following Pyongyang's offer, U.S. President Ronald Reagan suggested the participation of China in the talks, while Tokyo has proposed that Japan and the Soviet Union also take part. Abe said now is the good occasion to ease the tension on the peninsula and that Japan wants to have further consultations with China and the U.S.

Abe said Japan will endeavor to bring about peace and stability on the divided peninsula by taking such occasions as his visit to Washington later this month and Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's visit to China, scheduled for March.

Nakasone Shows Caution

OW130723 Tokyo KYODO in English 0707 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Tokyo Jan 13 KYODO -- Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone Friday retreated from a Foreign Ministry position and showed a cautious attitude toward Japan's participation in any international conference on the Korean question.

At a press conference held at the Japan National Press Club, Nakasone said that Japan is not in a position to comment on how to establish a framework for an international agreement on the matter. But he welcomed any initiative for talks between North and South Korea, saying that the Korean question should be solved primarily between the two parties themselves.

Nakasone made the remarks when he was asked for comment on a proposal by North Korea calling for a tripartite conference comprising North Korea, the United States and South Korea. Earlier in the day, Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe told reporters that Japan is ready to actively work to help restore peace on the Korean peninsula. A high ranking Foreign Ministry official had said Japan prefers a six-way conference made up of Japan, the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and North and South Korea.

At Friday's news conference, Nakasone declined to comment on the North Korean proposal, saying that he did not yet have the details. The proposal by Pyongyang was virtually turned down by Seoul which called again for summit talks between the two Koreas. Nakasone reiterated that Japan is deeply concerned about peace and stability on the Korean peninsula. He also said at the press conference that he would continue his efforts to improve relations with the Soviet Union, although he emphasized that the territorial questions between the two countries must be settled. "I am closely watching any response from Kremlin," he said.

As to general foreign policy, Nakasone said that Japan would strive to contribute to the international community in political and cultural fields on the basis of its economic power. Questioned about the prospects for the economic issues between Japan and the United States, the prime minister said "it is the height of folly to undermine the bilateral ties and we should mutually do our best not to do so," he said.

ABE MEETS ENVOYS FROM SOUTHWEST ASIAN NATIONS

OW130253 Tokyo KYODO In English 0245 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Tokyo Jan 13 KYODO -- Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and envoys to Japan from five southwestern Asian nations Friday agreed to promote dialogue and relations between Japan and the region, Foreign Ministry officials said.

At a breakfast meeting hosted by the Japanese foreign minister, the ambassadors called for closer bilateral ties, referring to big economic potentials of the region, the officials said. Abe cited the increasing personnel exchanges between Japan and southwestern nations in recent years, including a state visit by Pakistani President Ziaul Haq last year, and said such dialogue should be promoted, the officials said. Present at the meeting were ambassadors from Pakistan, India and Bangladesh as well as charges d'affaires of Sri Lanka and Nepal.

U.S. AMBASSADOR MEETS TRADE, ECONOMIC OFFICIALS

OW121011 Tokyo KYODO In English 0840 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Tokyo, Jan 12 KYODO -- Glasses filled with Coca Cola clinked Thursday as U.S. Ambassador Mike Mansfield and the new Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Hokosaburo Okonogi exchanged toasts to wish for an early settlement of trade problems.

The unusual Coke toasts took place at the end of their half-an-hour meeting during which the veteran envoy sought Japan's continued efforts to open its market wider to American products. Mansfield expressed the hope that the two countries will quickly arrive at "an agreeable solution" to the trade issues which have soured bilateral economic ties, a ministry spokesman said. The spokesman said the ambassador specifically called on the government to reduce tariffs on competitive foreign products, expand imports of U.S. agricultural produce and enable U.S. satellite makers to have equal access to the Japanese market as their Japanese rivals. Additionally, the MITI official said, Mansfield cautioned that Japan's computer software legislation is of great interest to U.S. computer firms. The ambassador did not elaborate.

The U.S. is reportedly seeking reduction of tariffs on highly competitive U.S. products such as photographic sensitized paper. Washington and Tokyo are scheduled to resume talks on farm trade later this month.

Okonogi casually proposed that experts of both countries tackle the computer software issue and Japan's measures to assist depressed industries should be taken up in the Japan-U.S. Trade Facilitation Committee (FTC) and other forums, according to the spokesman. The MITI official did not rule out the possibility the issue may be discussed during next month's FTC meeting in Tokyo. Okonogi told the U.S. ambassador he, as a native of Yokohama in neighboring Kanagawa Prefecture, has inherited the good traditions of the major Japanese port which has long benefited from free trade.

Mansfield made similar requests on Japan-U.S. trade relations when he met with Toshio Komoto, director general of the economic planning agency, the same day. The ambassador was quoted as telling Komoto that the U.S. Government is especially interested in such matters as early correction of the "undervaluation" of the yen against the dollar and activities of the office of trade ombudsman, a machinery set up to deal with foreign trade complaints. Komoto replied he would do his best to solve the bilateral trade friction.

ABE WARNS AGAINST CUTTING FOREIGN AID FUND

OW130523 Tokyo KYODO in English 0359 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Tokyo Jan 13 KYODO -- Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe Friday warned the Finance Ministry against slashing foreign aid funds because it would go against the government's international commitments.

Abe brought up the subject in a meeting with Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita following the day's regular Cabinet session, officials said. Abe reminded Takeshita it has been a government commitment to double the official development assistance (ODA) in five years and urged him to "make maximum efforts" in meeting the target, they said.

Takeshita replied he understood the government position but stopped short of making any commitment by noting the "severity" of government finances, the officials said. The Japanese Government has publicly pledged to spend 21.4 billion dollars in official development aid between fiscal 1981 and fiscal 1985, a sum which would double the overall aid spending in the previous five years. The target would require an average of 11.4 percent annual growth in the foreign aid budget, and Foreign Ministry sources said the Finance Ministry plans to slash the growth rate to around 8 percent for the next fiscal year. Foreign aid appropriations for the current fiscal year also fell short of the target growth rate by nearly 3 percent.

Prior to the Cabinet session, Abe also met State Minister and Defense Agency Director General Yuko Kurihara and pledged to support the agency's stand in seeking a 6.88 percent increase in the defense budget for the next fiscal year, officials said.

NAKASONE SEES EARLY SETTLEMENT ON BEEF, ORANGES

OW121211 Tokyo KYODO in English 1137 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Tokyo Jan 12 KYODO -- Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said Thursday a Japan-U.S. trade dispute stemming from a longtime American request for liberalization of beef and orange imports will be settled soon.

The Tokyo Government will also try to work out a package proposal by around April to reduce duties and open the Japanese market wider for imported products, Nakasone said when he met a delegation of American senators and congressmen.

This was the first time Nakasone mentioned a timetable for settling the bilateral trade problem caused by Japan's huge export surplus with the United States. America has maintained that Japan's import restrictions on beef and citrus fruit are a symbol of the country's "closed" market. Government sources here said Nakasone put forward the timetable in an apparent bid to help President Ronald Reagan's attempt to seek a second term. The trade problem will be discussed when Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe visits Washington beginning January 26.

Abe also held talks with members of the American delegation led by Sen Frank H. Murkowski (R-Alaska).

When asked by the Americans what Japan can and should do about import liberalization of farm products, Abe was quoted as saying he will continue efforts to settle the trade dispute. "Therefore," Abe said, "we hope the United States will also make concessions."

"I personally hope (the problem over beef and oranges) will be settled without delay," Abe added. The American lawmakers are here on a parliamentarians exchange program between Japan and the United States.

Abe also said he was happy to learn that the Americans are interested in a Japanese request for the return of four Soviet-held islands off the northern island of Hokkaido. This referred to the American readiness expressed by Murkowski to adopt a congressional resolution in support of the Japanese Government over the Northern Territorial issue, a major stumbling block between Tokyo and Moscow.

Murkowski sponsored a U.S. congressional resolution which hailed Japanese cooperation in providing the United States with key military information verifying the Soviet involvement in the shooting down of a Korean Airlines Boeing 747 near Sakhalin in September. In their meetings Thursday, both Nakasone and Abe thanked the senator for his pro-Japanese action.

FORMER TRADE MINISTER TO ATTEND BRUNEI CEREMONY

OW130725 Tokyo KYODO in English 0652 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Tokyo Jan 13 KYODO -- Musumi Esaki, senior House of Representatives member and former minister of international trade and industry, will represent the Japanese Government at a ceremony celebrating the independence of Brunei to be held in Bandar Seri Begawan on February 23. He will be sent as an ambassador on special mission, the Foreign Ministry announced Friday. Brunei became independent on January 1 this year after nearly 100 years as a British protectorate.

KOMOTO EYED TO CHALLENGE NAKASONE'S LEADERSHIP

OW121237 Tokyo KYODO in English 1157 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Tokyo Jan 12 KYODO -- Toshio Komoto, archrival of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, appears to have begun maneuvers to take over power this autumn.

Komoto, 72, who gained a post with deputy premier rank last month, will stake his political life on a bid for the premiership in November. Political analysts believe it will be his last chance because of his age. Nakasone's two-year term of office as leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party is due to expire on November 25. The LDP presidency carries with it the post of prime minister under an LDP-controlled Diet (parliament).

Often called an "unsmiling prince," the state minister and director general of the Economic Planning Agency flexed his muscles this week. On Wednesday, he attended a meeting of government and ruling party leaders and proposed a major income and investment tax cut plan plus a reduction in tax hike margins as proposed by the Finance Ministry. Komoto talked with Former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda the following day and agreed to make efforts to abolish the LDP's presidential primary election scheme which his mentor, former Premier Takeo Miki, established in 1976. "The primary system is the source of political confusion," Komoto was quoted by LDP sources as telling Fukuda.

According to LDP election rules, the party's rank-and-file members, estimated at 1 million, cast votes in a primary election if there are more than four presidential candidates. The top three vote gainers then face a run-off in balloting by LDP Diet members.

The ruling party called such primary elections twice, in 1978 and 1982. In 1978, Fukuda, then LDP leader, was defeated by the late Masayoshi Ohira, and in 1982 Nakasone scored a landslide win with Komoto placing second. In both cases, there was no balloting among Diet members because losers in primaries withdrew their candidacies.

The primary system, which Miki introduced as part of efforts to clean up party affairs following the 1976 Lockheed bribery scandal, has long faced criticism that intraparty factional strifes "proliferated" into rank-and-file levels. Fukuda has been the major advocate of the abolition of primary elections since his defeat in 1978.

Komoto, the de facto owner of Sanko Steamship Co., one of Japan's major shipping firms, has been critical of Nakasone's economic policy ever since Nakasone came to power in November 1982. Komoto has advocated boosting government expenditures and cutting taxes sharply to stimulate the economy. At Wednesday's session, he called it "best" to abandon a tax hike plan and proposed a reduction in raise margins, which he termed the second choice.

Komoto's initiative was a powerful blow to the Finance and Home Affairs Ministries which earlier this month proposed to raise corporate, liquor, automobile and commodity taxes to offset a revenue shortage from a 1 trillion yen (4.3 billion dollars) income and resident tax reduction plan. Komoto's meeting with Fukuda on Thursday also impressed the political world of their continuing alliance, which began in 1982.

In November, at least three men, besides Komoto, will throw their hats in the ring, according to political analysts. They will be Nakasone, Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and Former Chief Cabinet Secretary Kiichi Miyazawa. Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita may also make a challenge, they say.

Nakasone has already shown a dogged resolve to stay in power beyond November. The LDP is a coalition of intraparty factions. There are six factions now, led by Nakasone, Komoto, former Prime Ministers Kakuei Tanaka, Zenko Suzuki, Takeo Fukuda and novelist-turned politician Shintaro Ishihara.

LDP members in both houses of the Diet total 394, of whom 113 are under Tanaka's control, 77 under Suzuki, 67 under Fukuda, 57 under Nakasone, 36 under Komoto and 7 under Ishihara. The remainder have no factional affiliation. The November power game will again be influenced by former Premier Tanaka, 65, a conservative independent who controls the largest faction, analysts say. He was sentenced to four years in prison last October for taking 500 million yen (2.1 million dollars) from Lockheed Corp.

NATION'S ADHERENCE TO NONNUCLEAR POLICY REITERATED

OW130331 Tokyo KYODO in English 0321 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Tokyo Jan 13 KYODO -- The government of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone Friday reiterated its stand to stick by Japan's established nonnuclear policy.

In a written reply to a Socialist Diet member, the government said it "upholds the three nonnuclear principles" in reference to Japan's nonnuclear policy that bars the country from making, possessing nuclear weapons or allowing other countries to bring them to Japan.

The content of the government reply was approved by the Cabinet in a regular session Friday, officials said.

They said the document was prompted by a question posed by Sukio Iwatate, a Socialist lower house member, concerning the cancellation of a planned port call by British aircraft carrier Invincible. There were suspicions that Tokyo opposed the port call because the war ship carried nuclear weapons, but the government said the decision to call off the trip was made unilaterally by the British Government. The Japanese Government, the reply said, welcomes goodwill visits by British war ships as a matter of principle.

BUSINESS LEADERS OPPOSE CORPORATE TAX INCREASE

OW121339 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Tokyo Jan 12 KYODO -- The tax system committee, an advisory body to the finance minister, decided Thursday to submit a recommendation on revision of the tax system, including the government-pledged cut in income tax and resident's tax, and compensatory increases in other taxes, on January 18.

The tax cuts are estimated at 1 trillion yen (4.3 billion dollars). To offset a revenue drop due to the tax cuts, the government has proposed increases in liquor, commodity, corporate and other taxes.

Reacting strongly to the corporate tax increase plan, Yoshihiro Inayama, chairman, and other leaders of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), visited Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone Thursday and called for retraction of the plan. But the prime minister gave no clear-cut answer. The heads of Keidanren and four other major economic organizations will call on the top executives of the Liberal-Democratic Party Friday to petition against the corporate tax increase.

At Thursday's session, many members of the tax system committee expressed opposition to the Finance Ministry's tax increase plans, especially regarding liquor taxes. The LDP's tax system committee also convened a subcommittee session Thursday to study the proposed tax increases, but no conclusion was reached. Chairman Ganri Yamashita later told newsmen his committee's stand will be finalized on January 14 to adopt an outline of tax system revision on January 18. Members of the LDP body also raised strong objections to the ministry's tax increase plans.

MINISTRIES AGREE ON FISCAL 1984 GROWTH ESTIMATE

OW130015 Tokyo KYODO in English 0100 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Tokyo Jan 13 KYODO -- Three government agencies have agreed to set the government's official estimate of the nation's inflation-adjusted economic growth rate for fiscal 1984, beginning April 1, at around 4.1 percent, down slightly from the earlier-reported 4.2 percent, officials said Friday.

The agreement was reached Thursday when the Economic Planning Agency, the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry completed adjustment of their views on the official fiscal 1984 economic outlook, the officials said. The agreement will be reported to Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone Friday afternoon and the government will formally adopt the fiscal 1984 outlook at an extraordinary Cabinet meeting January 19, the officials said.

The fiscal 1984 growth estimate compares with the fiscal 1983 estimate of 3.4 percent. Among other items, the three agencies have agreed to set the fiscal 1984 estimate of Japan's current account surplus at about 23 billion dollars, about the same level as in the current fiscal year.

NODONG SINMUN URGES ACCEPTANCE OF TRIPARTITE TALKS

SK130227 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2232 GMT 12 Jan 84

[NODONG SINMUN 13 January editorial: "A New Epochal Step for Peace and Peaceful Reunification of Korea"]

[Text] The joint meeting of the DPRK Central People's Committee and the SPA Standing Committee held in Pyongyang on 10 January, comprehensively analyzed the tense situation created in our country and discussed and decided on taking a new step for the peaceful solution of the Korean question. The joint meeting stressed that the Korean question, considering the present situation, should be solved not by force but by dialogue, and has proposed the convening of tripartite talks in which the South Korean authorities -- another party responsible for aggravating the tension in Korea -- would participate in the talks between us and the United States.

As a first step to easing tension on the Korean peninsula and to provide a precondition for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland, the joint meeting has proposed discussion of the following in the tripartite talks: the peace agreement between Korea and the United States, the U.S. troop withdrawal from South Korea, and the adoption of a declaration of nonaggression between the North and the South as a step to stopping armed actions between North and South, to drastically reduce the armed forces and military equipment, and to eliminate the state of military confrontation.

Also, the joint meeting noted that the tripartite talks could discuss problems that might be raised by the United States and the South Korean authorities as well.

The joint meeting has decided to send letters outlining the proposal for the tripartite talks to the U.S. Government and Congress and the South Korean authorities, respectively.

The joint meeting's proposal for the tripartite talks is an important new step of epochal significance in peacefully settling the Korean question. The proposal is an expression of our serious effort to settle the grave situation on the Korean peninsula, which is at the crossroads of war and peace, through dialogue, negotiations, and peaceful measures and is an expression of our ardent aspirations to abide by the national mission before the Korean people as well as by the cause of peace of the progressive people of Asia and the world.

This new step reaffirms the fair and just position of our party and government of the Republic, which have made sincere and consistent efforts for peace in Korea and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country from the very inception of the Korean question.

Should the tripartite talks be held, at our initiative, there could be successful discussions of problems related to easing tension on the Korean peninsula and realizing a favorable turning point for the independent and peaceful reunification, and reasonable ways would be found to surmount the difficult situation, to the benefit of the parties concerned. This would result in a new breakthrough in efforts for peace and peaceful reunification of Korea, to which the entire Korean people and the world's progressive people consistently aspire.

Our people are now warmly supporting the new step of the joint meeting for the convocation of the tripartite talks, and the progressive people of Asia and the world, who highly value justice and peace, are also expressing their great consensus relative to the proposal for talks.

The tripartite talks are a most well-timed, realistic, and just step to prevent the danger of a war on the Korean peninsula and to develop a favorable phase for peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

Today, the tension on the Korean peninsula has been unprecedentedly aggravated, and the danger of a nuclear war is being accelerated. The United States, which is scheming to perpetuate its military occupation of South Korea, is increasing arms supplies in South Korea on a large scale, defining the Korean peninsula as being in the forefront of U.S. strategy, and the security of South Korea as directly connected with that of the United States.

As the provocative military actions against us are being drastically escalated, North-South confrontation and an atmosphere of war are being stirred up among the South Korean people, and the anticommunist and anti-Republic rackets inspiring hostility against fellow countrymen are aggravated.

The tense situation created on the Korean peninsula today is reaching a graver stage because of the increasing U.S. threat of a nuclear war against the Korean people. Nuclear bombs, nuclear warheads, and delivery mechanisms are continuously being brought into South Korea, which has already been turned into a nuclear attack base directed against the northern half of the republic and an advanced nuclear base for aggression against Asia, with the deployment of some 1,000 nuclear weapons and various nuclear carrying means. Now they are scheming to bring in Pershing II and cruise missiles, which are the modern intermediate-range nuclear missiles, and even neutron weapons, which are the most savage means of mass slaughter.

The 7th U.S. Fleet, equipped with nuclear weapons, has moved the center of its strategic deployment to the East Sea of Korea and is stationed in the seas around South Korea. Strategic bombers and fighter bombers equipped with nuclear weapons are flying over South Korea and surrounding areas daily.

The maneuvers to fabricate the U.S.-Japanese-South Korean triangular military alliance -- an Asian version of NATO -- have been accelerated at the final stage, thereby rapidly increasing the danger of war.

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercise held annually in South Korea is virtually a nuclear test war. This year it is reported that the exercise will be conducted on a scale larger than last year's, which was announced as the largest ever in history.

All the events taking place today, with South Korea as a theater, show that the danger of nuclear war in Korea and the Far East is becoming not tomorrow's, but today's, real problem. If a nuclear war broke out in Korea, it would spread beyond the Korean borders, and it could destroy peace in Asia and the world and plunge mankind into a calamitous nuclear war. We can never allow our nation to fall victim to a nuclear war by outside forces and our inviolable territory to be devastated as a battlefield of a nuclear war by outside forces. We do not want mankind to suffer from a nuclear scourge as a result of a Korean war. If a nuclear war broke out, the United States would not be safe, either.

The situation that has been created is arousing deep apprehension among the world's peace-loving people, and makes it urgently necessary that proper measures to remove the danger of a nuclear war and to defend peace be taken without delay.

Under the circumstances in which the situation on the Korean peninsula has become extremely strained and the danger of a nuclear war has increased, the only fundamental measure to open a phase benefiting peace in Korea and its independent and peaceful reunification is meeting each other and holding dialogue.

Reliance on armed forces will not solve problems, but will only bring about an irredeemable, catastrophic situation. Only meeting with each other and holding dialogue can help to remove accumulated misunderstandings and distrust, to find a reasonable way to solve the problems and turn the dangerous situation, approaching the brink of war, into a situation favoring peace and peaceful reunification.

The proposal for dialogue by the joint meeting proceeded from the basic stand to which the government of our Republic has invariably adhered in maintaining peace in Korea and in solving the reunification question, and it reflects the unanimous will of our people to effect an epochal turn in peacefully settling the Korean question.

Holding tripartite talks at which we sit face to face with the United States and in which the South Korean authorities participate is a reasonable negotiations method with realistic significance in easing tension and in removing the danger of war. The holding talks between us and the United States for solving the Korean question is an indispensable demand.

By occupying South Korea, the United States has deeply interfered in the Korean question for nearly 40 years, grasping powers, including the prerogative of Supreme Military Command, and controlling and dominating South Korea. The main responsibility for the current deteriorating situation on the Korean peninsula rests with none other than the United States. This being the case, the U.S. authorities have an inevitable responsibility to guarantee peace in Korea and remove obstacles on the road of reunification.

Direct talks between the DPRK and the United States and the conclusion of a peace agreement are realistic methods to remove tension on the Korean peninsula and the source of the danger of war, and to open a phase favorable for the independent and peaceful reunification of our fatherland.

Proceeding from this, we have long proposed Korea-U.S. talks to the United States. However, this proposal has not been realized because of the U.S. insincerity and unjust attitude. The present situation will not permit such a situation to continue.

The intent to hold the Korean-U.S. talks as tripartite talks by allowing the South Korean authorities to participate is related to the current situation in which they are joining in the U.S. imperialists' strategy toward Korea.

By clinging to the policy of dependence on foreign forces, the South Korean authorities are maintaining South Korea as a forward U.S. nuclear base, are strengthening military collusion with the Japanese reactionaries, and are opening the door for invasion.

If the South Korean authorities intend to act in the interests of the nation at all, they should make the U.S. troops withdraw from South Korea instead of having them stay there, give up the policy of North-South confrontation, take practical measures to ease tension, and be willing to discuss questions at the tripartite talks.

The tripartite talks will be a good opportunity for the South Korean authorities to discard their past incorrect stand and embark on the correct path for the nation.

The realization of our proposal for the tripartite talks will help effect an epochal advance in settling the Korean question and will also be beneficial in maintaining world peace.

In view of the issues to be discussed at the tripartite talks, too, the talks become the most realistic way for pioneering a phase for peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification.

As stressed at the joint meeting, the tripartite talks should be a forum for concluding a peace agreement between Korea and the United States, which we proposed for peaceful solution of the Korean question, and for adopting a declaration of nonaggression between the North and the South.

The conclusion of a peace agreement between Korea and the United States and withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea are basic guarantees for maintaining consolidated peace in Korea and a precondition for realizing the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

The tense situation created on the Korean peninsula is a consequence of the U.S. troops' occupation of South Korea and the policy of strength pursued by the United States. To ease the aggravated tension on the Korean peninsula and to maintain durable peace there, the United States, which, as a signatory of the Korean Armistice Agreement, is responsible for proclaiming by law an end to the state of war in Korea, should terminate the abnormal situation in which it has stationed the occupiers in South Korea for more than 30 years, since the war, and withdraw all military equipment, including the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons, from South Korea.

When a peace agreement is signed and the U.S. troops are withdrawn from South Korea, a firm guarantee for peace can be provided in Korea. Even if the U.S. troops were to leave South Korea, a war [nalli] would not break out. We will ensure all conditions for maintaining a consolidated peace in Korea.

Our proposal for adopting the declaration of nonaggression between the North and the South envisages both sides firmly promising not to use armed forces against each other or to attack each other. It also envisages them drastically reducing the armies and arms in the North and the South and terminating the state of military confrontation. It is impossible to completely rule out the possibility of armed conflict in Korea while leaving the huge armed forces of the North and the South to stand in confrontation. Our proposal reflects the demands of reality, at a time when it is urgently necessary than ever before to take practical measures to prevent an armed conflict that can cause war and to ease tension in Korea. The declaration would become another important step conducive to the cause of peace and peaceful reunification and would be a firm guarantee for ensuring peace and security on the Korean peninsula after the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea.

The proposal by the joint meeting is an epochal measure for national salvation which opens a new phase in peacefully resolving the question of the country's reunification on the basis of the nation's own strength.

As emphasized by the joint meeting, when conditions favorable for the independent and peaceful reunification and created with the conclusion of a peace agreement between us and the United States through the tripartite talks and with the adoption of the declaration of nonaggression between the North and the South, the North and the South would hold dialogue for reunification and resolve the reunification question on the basis of the three great principles of independence, peace, and great national unity made clear in the 4 July North-South Joint Statement.

The three great principles of independence, peace, and great national unity are a publicly recognized program for reunification, on which the North and the South early agreed through a dialogue for reunification and which they proclaimed to the world, and they are a foundation for settling the question of the reunification of the fatherland.

The most reasonable way to solve the reunification problem on the basis of the three principles is to found a confederal state, leaving intact the existing ideologies and systems of the North and South, and based on the self-autonomy of the two regions, as our party proposed. To found a confederal state, a political consultative meeting like the national congress, reflecting the general will of the people of the North and South should be formed. The unified confederal state will not be a satellite state, but rather an independent state free from foreign domination, a neutral state that does not take part in any political or military alliance or bloc, and a peace-loving state in which the North and South do not impose anything on each other, do not wage aggression against each other, and do not allow invasion by any foreign force.

The tripartite talks proposed by the joint meeting is a new peace proposal and a step ~~for national salvation to eliminate the danger of a war on the Korean peninsula at its~~ very root, to ensure peace, and to provide a breakthrough for the peaceful settlement of the problem of national reunification. Maintaining and solidifying peace in Korea and realizing reunification are the consistent aspirations of the entire nation and a pressing demand of the times.

The United States, which is the ringleader that has been blocking our national reunification and aggravating tension by stationing its army in South Korea, should not evade our proposal for the tripartite talks. The United States should sincerely respond to our proposal. This is necessary not only for peace and peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula but also for the benefit of the people of the United States themselves.

The South Korean authorities should stop the war rackets of northward invasion and the two Koreas plot staged at the instigation of foreign forces, and should affirmatively respond to our proposal for the tripartite talks. The position they take regarding our proposal for the tripartite talks will become a touchstone in determining whether or not they want peace and reunification of Korea. Should the United States and the South Korean authorities reject our proposal for the tripartite talks, they would not escape condemnation as enemies of peace.

Removing tension in Korea, eliminating the danger of a new war, and realizing independent and peaceful national reunification are the firm position of our party and the government of the Republic. We will spare no effort, while the entire nation and the world's people are watching, to realize the new peace proposal, the step for national salvation.

FOREIGN MEDIA, SPOKESMAN ON TRIPARTITE TALKS PROPOSAL

TASS Reports Proposal

SK121116 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1045 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Mos w January 11 (KCNA) -- TASS on January 11 reported the information on the joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It says:

New proposals on the peaceful settlement of the situation in the Korean peninsula were set forth at a joint meeting in Pyongyang of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The information stresses that in conditions of the aggravation of tension in the Korean peninsula caused by the aggressive intrigues of the United States a constructive dialogue is the only way of achieving peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification. With this aim the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposes to hold trilateral talks with the participation of the DPRK, the United States and South Korea.

The talks should centre on the question of replacing the armistice agreement with a peace agreement providing for the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea. It is also proposed to conclude a non-aggression declaration between the North and the South under which the sides would undertake not to use armed forces against one another, drastically reduce their size and armament and eliminate the state of armed confrontation. These measures would serve as a reliable guarantee of peace and security in the Korean peninsula, the information stresses.

Further Soviet Media Reports

SK130411 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0402 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 12 (KCNA) -- Soviet news media widely reported the information on the joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

PRAVDA January 12, reporting the information, says: A joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which was held in Pyongyang adopted a new proposal for a peaceful settlement of the situation in the Korean peninsula.

Under the growing tension in the Korean peninsula caused by the aggressive intrigues of the United States the only way of achieving peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification is a constructive dialogue.

With this aim the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposes to hold trilateral talks with the participation of the DPRK, the United States and the South Korean authorities.

The talks should centre on the question of replacing the armistice agreement with a peace agreement providing for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea.

It is also proposed to conclude a non-aggression declaration between the North and the South under which the sides would undertake not to use armed forces against one another, but to drastically reduce their armies and armament and eliminate the state of military confrontation.

Then the DPRK proposes to hold a North-South dialogue on the problem of national reunification on the basis of the already agreed principle of reunification.

IZVESTIYA January 11 carried the information on the joint meeting under the title "Important Initiative."

TASS reported on January 11 and 12 a detailed content of the information on the joint meeting and Radio Moscow aired it on January 12.

PRC Spokesman Cited

SK130206 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2325 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Beijing January 11 (KCNA) -- A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry in his reply to questions of correspondents on January 11 said that China supports the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for holding tripartite talks between the DPRK, The United States and the South Korean authorities, according to a XINHUA report.

The spokesman said China held that the proposed tripartite talks would be conducive to easing tension on the Korean peninsula and promoting the peaceful reunification of Korea, and stressed that China adopted a positive attitude of support toward the proposed tripartite talks.

PEOPLE'S DAILY January 12 introduced the reply of the spokesman under the title "Spokesman for the Foreign Ministry replies to questions of correspondents about Korea's proposal for tripartite talks. Considering the tripartite talks conducive to promoting the peaceful reunification of Korea, China supports it."

XINHUA Notes Proposal

SK121053 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Beijing January 11 (KCNA) -- Chinese news media on January 11 reported about the publication of an information on a joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The XINHUA News Agency said: The joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea held on January 10 made an important proposal to hold tripartite talks of the DPRK, the United States and South Korean authorities to open a new phase for the peaceful reunification of Korea.

The information says that it is essential above all to discuss the problem of signing a Korea-U.S. peace agreement and, at the same time, the problem of adopting a North-South non-aggression declaration, at the tripartite talks.

The news agency reported that the joint meeting adopted a letter to the U.S. Government and Congress and a letter to the Seoul authorities.

Radio Beijing aired this news on the same day.

Other PRC Reports

SK130430 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0411 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Beijing January 12 (KCNA) -- Chinese mass media widely reported all at once the information on the joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

PEOPLE'S DAILY January 12 reported the information under the title "Korea Proposes Tripartite Talks To Open a New Phase for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea." It said:

Referring to the problem of tripartite talks, the information says: Without direct talks with the United States for solving problems, it is impossible to eliminate the tension in Korea and open a peaceful phase for Korea's reunification.

The problem of signing a Korea-U.S. peace agreement and withdrawing the U.S. troops from South Korea should be discussed, first of all, at the trilateral talks.

The joint meeting, the information says, proposed the adoption of a non-aggression declaration between the North and the South of Korea at the tripartite talks and held that the two sides should not resort to arms or attack each other, should drastically reduce their armies and armament and eliminate the state of military confrontation.

The information says that after favourable preconditions are created for an independent and peaceful reunification with the signing of a peace agreement between the North side and the United States and adoption of a non-aggression declaration between the North and the South, the North and the South would enter into a dialogue on the reunification issue. This dialogue should proceed from the principles of independence, peace and great national unity in accordance with the July 4 North-South Joint Statement, it adds.

The information says that the most rational plan to realize national reunification is to bring the North and the South into a confederal state based on regional autonomy and an all-nation conference should be convened for the birth of this confederal state.

The Chinese LIBERATION ARMY DAILY, GUANGMING DAILY, BEIJING DAILY and WORKERS' DAILY carried the gist of the information on the joint meeting all at once on January 12.

The XINHUA News Agency on January 11 reported a brief summary of the information first and then its detailed summary and Radio Beijing aired it on January 11 and 12.

Japanese Media Reports

SK130217 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2312 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA) -- News media of various countries gave wide publicity to the new step for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question taken at a joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

AP January 11 from Tokyo said: Radio Pyongyang on January 11 reported that North Korea proposed on January 10 to hold tripartite talks for the reunification of divided Korea with the participation of the DPRK, the United States and South Korea.

North Korea held that the tripartite talks should reach agreement on problems of signing a peace agreement between her and the United States, withdrawing the U.S. forces from South Korea, adopting a declaration of non-aggression between the North and the South and convening a national conference.

North Korea declared that she is ready to discuss other proposals put forward by the United States and South Korea at the tripartite talks.

NHK radio and television said on January 11: in the letters to the United States and the South Korean authorities adopted at a joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly which was held in Pyongyang on January 10, North Korea proposed to hold tripartite talks by letting South Korea participate in the talks between the United States and North Korea as a way for the reunification of the North and the South. She also proposed to discuss at the tripartite talks problems of signing a peace agreement between North Korea and the United States, withdrawing the U.S. forces from South Korea, adopting a declaration of non-aggression between North and South of Korea and drastically reducing armies and armaments.

She also proposed to reunify the North and the South into a confederal state based on autonomy, leaving the different ideas and systems in the North and the South as they are, and called for holding tripartite talks as early as possible at Panmunjom or any other convenient place to discuss these problems.

The information on the joint meeting was also reported on January 11 by AFP from Tokyo, KYODO News Service of Japan, REUTER from Tokyo and radio short wave, Nihon, Fuji, TBS and Asahi televisions of Japan.

Japanese Newspapers Cited

SK130512 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2224 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA) -- Evening papers of Japan on January 11 reported the joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It was reported under the titles "Proposal for Tripartite Talks to the U.S. and South Korea" and "North Korea Also Proposes Adoption of Non-Aggression Declaration" (ASAHI SHIMBUN), "North Korea Proposes Conclusion of 'Peace Agreement'" and "North Korea Decides To Propose Tripartite Talks to the United States and South Korea" (MAINICHI SHIMBUN), "Peace Agreement Between Korea and the United States" and "Reunification Question, 'North' Proposes Tripartite Talks" (YOMIURI SHIMBUN), "North Korea Decides at Joint Meeting" and "Proposal for Tripartite Talks to the U.S. and South Korea" (NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN), "Proposal for Tripartite Talks to the U.S. and South Korea" (SANKEI SHIMBUN) and "Proposal for Tripartite Talks to the U.S. and South Korea" (TOKYO SHIMBUN).

ASAHI SHIMBUN, NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN and TOKYO SHIMBUN said: The joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held in Pyongyang on January 10, which decided to propose to hold tripartite talks by letting the South Korean authorities participate in the talks between North Korea and the United States on the Korean question.

The joint meeting stressed that at the tripartite talks such problems as signing a peace agreement between Korea and the United States and withdrawing the U.S. troops from South Korea should be discussed and proposed that a declaration on non-aggression between the North and the South be adopted there.

It is proposed that in the declaration of non-aggression the two sides give assurances of not resorting to arms or attacking the other side, drastically reduce the armies and armaments and terminate military confrontation.

The letter to the U.S.A. Government and Congress adopted at the joint meeting noted that "Panmunjom or any other place regarded convenient to all parties may be chosen as the venue of the tripartite talks".

ASAHI SHIMBUN further reported: The joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea adopted a "Letter to Seoul Authorities" in connection with the tripartite talks among North Korea, the United States and South Korea. The letter clearly pointed out that South Korea can participate on an equal footing in the tripartite talks.

SOUTH TURNING INTO U.S. WAR BASE, 'ARSENAL'

SK130822 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0804 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA) -- South Korea has now been turned into a most dangerous arsenal and a forward nuclear base of the U.S. imperialists by their criminal moves to start a new war of aggression in Korea.

Having worked out a plan of nuclear war against the Korean people, the U.S. imperialists have frenziedly stepped it up under their aggressive strategy for dominating Asia and the world.

What is particularly dangerous in their conversion of South Korea into a forward nuclear base is that they continue deploying more nuclear weapons of various types in South Korea.

They have already shipped more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons into South Korea and deployed them at the bases of their aggression forces in Ulsan, Kunsan, Osan, Suwon, Tongduchon, Kangrung and other areas and near the Military Demarcation Line, and are introducing more of them.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors have worked out a detailed plan to deploy even neutron bombs, a mass destruction weapon, in South Korea in defiance of the unanimous denunciation by public opinion at home and abroad; they have developed neutron bombs for the 8-inch howitzer in South Korea and now are producing them and are developing in neutron bombs for the 155-mm howitzer.

They also continue reinforcing nuclear-equipped units in South Korea.

The conversion of South Korea into their arsenal and forward nuclear base is made still clearer by the ever more frantic nuclear war exercises staged in South Korea under simulated conditions of the use of nuclear weapons.

The U.S. imperialists plan to stage with the Chon Tu-hwan puppet clique "Team Spirit 84" joint military exercises biggest in history from February 1 all over South Korea with the mobilization of 207,000 troops. This means an escalation of the nuclear war provocation manoeuvres which they have premeditatedly stepped up against the northern half of Korea. This tells us that these manoeuvres have reached a very dangerous and grave stage. Along with the escalation of the nuclear war provocation manoeuvres the bellicose outburst spewing from the mouths of U.S. imperialist warmaniacs is one more proof that these manoeuvres have reached a very dangerous stage.

In early 1981, shortly after he took office, the warmaniac Reagan called puppet Chon Tu-hwan to Washington and reaffirmed the U.S. "commitment" to "protect" South Korea with its "nuclear umbrella." The U.S. Army chief of staff who visited South Korea in January last year declared that the United States intended to use tactical nuclear weapons even in case a conventional war broke out on the Korean peninsula.

Reagan who drove to the middle of the Demilitarized Zone south of the Military Demarcation Line some time ago went about, whipping up war fever, and blared repeatedly in confabs for aggression with the puppets that the United States would not rule out the use of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula in an event of contingency.

All the facts show that a very strained and grave situation in which a nuclear war may break out any moment has been created in our country due to the frantic nuclear war provocation manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists.

They should lend an ear to the unanimous demand of the Korean people and world peace-loving people, give up reckless nuclear war provocation manoeuvres and respond to our proposal for holding trilateral talks.

CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO REAGAN POLICY 'VISIBLE'

SK100111 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] According to a report from Washington on 4 January, voices have been raised in the U.S. Congress attacking the foreign and domestic policies of the Reagan administration. On 3 January, Percy, chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, demanded that Reagan withdraw the U.S. Marines quickly from Lebanon, and charged that the United States is engaged in bellicose conduct. O'Neill, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, also said that he will support a U.S. troop withdrawal from Lebanon.

CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY, a U.S. magazine published on Capitol Hill, analyzed the relations between Reagan and the Congress during the past year, and emphasized that the Congress had opposed the President's foreign and domestic policies 15 percent more frequently in 1983 than in 1982. It is worthwhile to note, in particular, that such a trend of opposition was visible both in the House and the Senate, in which the Republican Party is in the majority.

SOVIET MEDIA CITED ON U.S., JAPANESE POLICY

U.S. 'Dangerous Plans' Scored

SK071012 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 5 (KCNA) -- TASS January 3 carried a political analyst's article titled "Dangerous Plans" denouncing the U.S. imperialists for expanding their nuclear-missile potential in the Far East. It said:

It is not without reason that the Western press has already started mentioning time and again secret negotiations conducted by the United States with its Asian allies with the aim of deploying cruise missiles and other nuclear weapons on the territory of Japan and South Korea.

The most up-to-date "Ohio" and "Michigan" nuclear submarines armed with "Trident" missiles have already been sent into the Pacific Ocean. The intent to equip ships of the 7th Fleet with "Tomahawk" cruise missiles has been announced. Preparations to turn the air base in Misawa (Japan) into a permanent base of American nuclear-capable "F-16" planes are under way with the full approval of the Japanese Government.

Last but not least, the holding of large-scale United States military exercises in the Far East with the participation of aircraft and ships with nuclear weapons on board has become more frequent. An example of this is presented by the "Team Spirit-84" exercises that are scheduled for February and will involve more than 200,000 servicemen of the U.S. Army and the South Korean puppet Army.

Noting that the aim of these adventurist activities that gamble with peace in the Far East and the lives of millions of people is for the United States to bring its nuclear forces closer to the territory of the states of Asia that pursue an independent policy, it stressed: Is this not proved by the fact that more than 1,000 American nuclear munitions are deployed already in the territory of South Korea?

As to the Soviet Union, it will not be intimidated by the United States' policy of escalating the nuclear threat. The Soviet Union has everything that is needed to protect its security.

Japan's Aid to South Denounced

SK080402 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0356 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 5 (KCNA) -- The Soviet paper PRAVDA January 4 in an article titled "Tens of Billions of Yen for Seoul" denounced the aid of Japan to the South Korean puppet regime. The paper said: The Japanese Government decided to grant "special favor" loans amounting to 49,500 million yen to the South Korean puppet regime. This is one of the first steps taken by the new Nakasone Cabinet.

Only recently Japanese electors voted against the prime minister's line of war, with the result that his party suffered a serious defeat in the elections. As the fact shows, however, Nakasone continues to pursue his old policy.

Already in the summer of 1981 the "White House" demanded Tokyo to make a concrete contribution to the Far East strategy of Pentagon by making investment in South Korea.

Washington does not want to bear all by itself the burden of support to the South Korean "regime" which maintains large armed forces. So Japan allotted nearly 50,000 million yen to the South Korean dictator.

DEMAND FOR REINSTATEMENT OF WORKERS IN SOUTH NOTED

SK130506 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2218 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA) -- The South Korean Chonju Roman Catholic parish and Roman Catholics issued a joint resolution demanding the reinstatement of dismissed workers of the Taechang Spinning Company, according to KANKOKU TSUSHIN published by the "Emergency Council of Christians for South Korean Problem" in Japan.

Branding the repeated illegal dismissal of workers after the "Taechang incident" as a "criminal act stifling the right to work and dignity of mankind," the resolution strongly demanded the puppet authorities and the employer to immediately reinstate the workers who had been dismissed while fighting to form an independent trade union.

It held that the freedom of employment of the illegally dismissed workers should be guaranteed.

It declared that the Chonju Roman Catholic parish and Roman Catholics would act together with the workers of Taechang until their just demand was met.

WPK DELEGATIONS DEPART ON VISITS ABROAD

Delegation to DKP Meeting

SK061554 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1517 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Pyongyang January 6 (KCNA) -- A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Kim Kuk-jun, member, and first vice-director of a department, of the party Central Committee, left here on January 3 by plane to attend the 7th Congress of the German Communist Party [DKP].

It was seen off at the airport by Hyon Chun-kuk, member, and first vice-director of a department, of the WPK Central Committee.

Talks With Mies

SK130143 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2206 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA) -- Herbert Mies, chairman of the German Communist Party, on January 8 met the delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Kim Kuk-hun, member, and first vice-director of a department, of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, which had attended the Seventh Congress of the German Communist Party.

The head of the delegation conveyed cordial regards of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to the chairman.

Expressing deep thanks for this, the chairman asked the head of the delegation to convey his warm greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. The talk proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Group To Attend Togo Fete

SK080937 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0834 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA) -- A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Comrade Chong Chun-ki, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council, left Pyongyang Saturday by air to attend the celebrations of the 17th anniversary of the national liberation of Togo.

It was seen off at the airport by Comrade Kim Yong-sun and Soviet Ambassador to Korea N.M. Shubnikov.

'TEXT' OF KIM IL-SONG INTERVIEW WITH SCINTEIA

SK120031 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2350 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA) -- NODONG SINMUN and other papers here today printed answers of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on November 16, 1983, to questions raised by the delegation of SCINTEIA, organ of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, on a visit to our country. Follows the full text of the answers:

Question: The Romanian people, with warm feelings of friendship and solidarity, are watching the great success made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in its gigantic work of socialist construction. Would you tell us about the basic task which is being implemented by the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people at the present stage in the spirit of the decision of the sixth party congress for a continuous progress of the country?

Answer: The sixth congress of our party put forward the task of modelling the whole society on the *chuche* idea. Transforming the whole of society after the *chuche* idea means building a communist society by maintaining this idea as a steadfast guideline and implementing it thoroughly.

In order to build communism with success we must transform man, society and nature as required by the *chuche* idea and thus occupy the ideological and material fortresses of communism. It would be impossible to realize the communist society if we only seized one of the two. We adhere to the principle of taking both the ideological and material fortresses in building communism.

Our party is vigorously carrying on the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions to model the whole society on the *chuche* idea. These three revolutions constitute the basic way of transforming the whole society after the *chuche* idea. Only by carrying out the three revolutions energetically can we wipe out all the residues of old society, seize the ideological and material fortresses of communism and build the communist society which accords with the wish and aspirations of the working class.

We are directing primary efforts to the ideological revolution in carrying out the three revolutions. The ideological revolution is a revolution that must precede the rest. Without giving priority to the ideological revolution it would be impossible to remould people into men of a communist type nor would it be possible to solve satisfactorily any problems in the revolution and construction by increasing the revolutionary enthusiasm of the working people.

The main thing in the ideological revolution is to equip all members of society solidly with the revolutionary outlook on the world. We are intensifying education in the *chuche* idea among the working people to make sure that they arm themselves firmly with the *chuche* outlook on the revolution and think and act as required by this idea wherever and whenever. We are also strengthening communist education so that all the working people get rid of egoism, selfishness and all other outdated ideas, and work, study and live on the communist principles: "One for all and all for one!"

Our party is pushing ahead vigorously with the technical revolution, along with the ideological revolution. The technical revolution is an important revolutionary task aimed to free the working people from difficult and backbreaking work and build up the material and technical foundations of socialism and communism. At the moment, our people are accelerating the rural technical revolution to do away with the distinctions between industrial labour and agricultural work and put agriculture on an industrial and modern basis; they are also striving to introduce mechanization, automation and remote control in production processes to eliminate heat-affected and harmful labour and change difficult work into an easy one. We are also making great efforts to carry out the cultural revolution. Only through a successful cultural revolution can the working people's cultural and technical standards be raised to make them powerful social beings, the sense of organization and discipline in the society be increased and a cultured way of social life established.

Our party is giving close attention to education in carrying out the cultural revolution. We are now giving a universal 11-year compulsory education and at the same time preparing for compulsory higher education in accordance with the policy of intellectualizing the whole society as proposed by the sixth party congress. When compulsory higher education is effected at some time in the future, all members of our society will receive university education and become fully developed communistic men.

At present our people are striving to reach the ten long-term objectives of socialist economic construction for the 1980s put forward by the party at its sixth congress.

These objectives are: to attain by the end of the 1980s an annual capacity of 100,000 million kwh of electricity, 120 million tons of coal, 15 million tons of steel, 1.5 million tons of nonferrous metals, 20 million tons of cement, 7 million tons of chemical fertilizers, 1,500 million metres of fabrics, 5 million tons of seafoods, and 15 million tons of grain and to reclaim 300,000 chongbo of tideland within the ten years. When these objectives are achieved, our country will rank among the world's leading economic powers, our people's material standard will attain a high level, and the material and technical foundations guaranteeing the complete victory of socialism will be laid.

We have every possibility of attaining the ten long-term objectives of socialist economic construction. We have the solid basis of an independent national economy and rich natural resources, millions of working people trained in practical struggles and an army of 1.2 million talented scientists and technicians. Once we make up our minds and get down to the struggle, there will be no fortress we cannot capture.

Since the sixth party congress we have taken one measure after another to reach these ten long-term objectives at plenary meetings of the party Central Committee and have been struggling to carry them out.

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Sixth Party Central Committee held in October 1981 set forth the policy of undertaking grand nature-transforming projects to reclaim tideland and obtain new land. Following the party policy our people are making vigorous efforts to reclaim 300,000 chongbo of tideland and building the Nampo lock gate to solve the problem of water for the tideland. If we increase the cultivated area by reclaiming that much tideland, we shall be able to attain the goal of 15 million tons of grain without difficulty.

At the Hamhung plenary meeting of the party Central Committee convened last year, a radical step was taken to hit the target of 1.5 million tons of nonferrous metals.

In hearty response to the decision of this plenary meeting, our people are developing new nonferrous mines and, at the same time, reconstructing and expanding the existing ones on modern lines. Through strenuous efforts to create the "speed of the 80s", our heroic working class constructed in a matter of one year a large, modern ore-dressing plant with a capacity of 10 million tons of nonferrous minerals.

The Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Sixth Party Central Committee held in June this year discussed how to attain the goal of 1,500 million metres of fabrics and the target of chemicals. According to the decision of this plenary meeting, we are going to build a vinalon factory with a capacity of 100,000 tons, and synthetic rubber and chemical fertilizer factories. Construction of these chemical factories will bring about an epochal turn in the struggle to reach the goals of fabrics, fertilizers and grain.

At present in our country, a struggle is also successfully going on to attain the goal of 15 million tons of steel. We are now expanding metallurgical works on a large scale. Recently our scientists and technicians completed the researches in the method of producing iron by using domestic fuel and thus opened up a broad perspective for reaching the goal of 15 million tons of steel.

In short, the work of attaining the ten long-term objectives of socialist economic construction is now successfully under way in our country. The present situation predicts that these objectives can be achieved ahead of schedule.

Question: It is a matter of our common pleasure that the cooperative relations between Romania and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and between our two parties and peoples are developing steadily.

The meetings and talks you have had with Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of our party and president of the republic, are playing a decisive role in the remarkable progress of these relations. How do you appreciate the specific results of cooperation between Romania and Korea and its perspective?

Answer: The friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Romania have historical traditions. The Korean and Romanian peoples established long ago the bonds of intimate friendship in their common struggle against imperialism and for the victory of the cause of socialism and communism and have actively supported each other and closely cooperated with each other.

As you have correctly pointed out, the meaningful meetings and talks which we had with Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu on a number of occasions have served as a decisive momentum in promoting the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between Korea and Romania.

Whenever we had these meetings and talks, the leaders of our two countries exchanged views on developing the relations of friendship and cooperation between Korean and Romania and took positive measures for promoting these relations more extensively.

In recent years these relations have been steadily developing on a new, higher plane. Mutual visits and contacts between our two parties, two governments and two peoples have grown more active, mutual support and solidarity between them have become more effective, and economic and technical cooperation and cultural exchange are developing more rapidly than ever.

The friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Romania are solid and vital as never before because these relations withstood the trials in history. These relations contribute greatly to stepping up the revolutionary struggle and construction work in our two countries, strengthening the unity and cohesion of the international communist movement and the anti-imperialist, independent forces and safeguarding world peace and security.

The perspective for the development of the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Romania is very good. Our two peoples are class brothers and close comrades-in-arms who are fighting shoulder to shoulder for socialism and communism. In the international relations both Korea and Romania maintain the principles of chajusong, mutual respect and noninterference. Precisely for this reason the relations of friendship and cooperation between Korea and Romania will continue to develop in all fields of politics, the economy and culture in the interests of the two peoples and in keeping with their aspirations.

Our party, government and people that highly value friendship with Romania will, in the future, too, as in the past, do everything to firmly safeguard and further develop the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between Korea and Romania.

Question: The constructive proposal for the independent and peaceful reunification of your country, the ardent desire of the Korean people, proposals which are permeated with the high sense of responsibility of you and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, are well known to our country and enjoy its full support. What do you think is the possibility at the moment of opening a dialogue between the political forces in the two parts of Korea to realize this desire?

Answer: Reunifying the divided country is the unanimous desire of all the Korean people and the supreme task of our nation.

Our party and the government of the republic adhere to the principle of solving the question of national reunification independently, free from any foreign interference, peacefully without recourse to arms and by promoting great national unity.

Considering it the most realistic and reasonable way of reunifying the country to bring the North and the South into a confederal state, leaving the ideas and social systems existing in the North and South of Korea as they are, we advanced a new proposal for reunifying the country by founding a Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo at the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea. At present we are struggling to realize the new reunification proposal made at the sixth party congress.

The North and the South should unite and cooperate in order to solve the reunification question of our country peacefully. For this purpose, the North and the South should have contacts and dialogues to remove misunderstanding and distrust between them, come to a deep understanding and trust and attain the reconciliation of the whole nation.

If a North-South dialogue is to be held, it is necessary to arrange the environments and conditions to make it a reality.

First of all, the tensions between the North and the South should be eased, and the danger of war removed from our country. As long as the extreme tensions exist and the danger of war prevails, the North and the South cannot get together to have a heart-to-heart dialogue, nor can they achieve a good result even if they manage to hold a dialogue.

At the moment the South Korean rulers are paying loud lipservice to a sort of dialogue, but, in fact, they are aggravating the tensions and manoeuvring to provoke a new war. Under the pretext of a fictitious "threat of southward invasion", they have turned South Korea into a most dangerous powder keg of war by shipping in a large amount of nuclear and other up-to-date lethal weapons and military equipment from the United States. They are also noisily staging one large-scale military exercise after another against the northern half of our republic. This has extremely aggravated the situation in the Korean peninsula so that there is a danger of war breaking out any minute in our country. Today, the South Korean rulers' move to provoke a war is the main obstacle to a North-South dialogue.

For a North-South dialogue, it is also necessary that the South Korean society should be democratized, and that the anti-communist clamour in South Korea should be stopped.

South Korea is now under the rule of military fascism which is unprecedented in brutality. Under the patronage of the U.S. imperialists, the South Korean rulers are savagely killing and indiscriminately arresting and imprisoning the South Korean people including the youths and students who aspire to independence, democracy and reunification and are subjecting patriotic democrats and all the political opponents to social ostracism.

The South Korean rulers are a band of military fascists who have massacred a large number of fellow countrymen in cold blood and stamped out the slightest trace of democracy. Under the current rule of the military fascists, no stratum of the South Korean people can freely discuss the question of national reunification or participate in dialogue for reunification.

Recently the South Korean rulers have stepped up more than ever their vicious anti-communist clamour to stir up hostility within the nation. These days, under the instigation of the U.S. imperialists, they invented an incident of what they call a Rangoon blast and are staging a frantic campaign against communism and our republic, worsening the situation to a critical point. How could we expect a sincere dialogue with the anti-communist fanatics who fan up antagonism and confrontation within the nation even by hatching a vicious anti-communist plot which goes beyond all human imagination? Under the present circumstances where the South Korean authorities continue with their anti-communist stratagem, it is difficult to open a dialogue between the North and the South.

If the North-South dialogue is to be successful it is important that both parties to the dialogue have a correct attitude and approach to national reunification.

The dialogue between the North and the South should be a dialogue solely for national reunification, a dialogue which contributes actually to the cause of national reunification. There is no need to have a dialogue which is intended to keep the country divided; a dialogue which does not help reunify the country is useless, no matter how long it is held. Therefore, both parties to the dialogue should proceed from the correct stand, sincerely desiring reunification. At the moment, the South Korean rulers talk about a North-South dialogue as if they were somewhat interested in reunification, but in fact, they have no intention to reunify the country at all. It is of no significance to hold a dialogue with those who do not want national reunification.

If the dialogue between the North and the South is to be a success, it is important that both sides to the dialogue take a firmly independent stand.

Depending on outside forces will make it impossible to solve the problem of our country's reunification correctly in the interests of our nation. The South Korean rulers, however, persist in their traitorous policy of depending on outside forces with a view to keeping themselves in power. They are begging for the U.S. troops' permanent occupation of South Korea and zealously following the U.S. imperialist policy of colonial subjugation towards South Korea.

The South Korean rulers are the out-and-out stooges of the U.S. imperialists; they totally lack chajusong. A dialogue would be impossible with these imperialist stooges who have no chajusong whatsoever; there is no need at all to discuss with them the problem of reunifying the country independently and peacefully.

Invariable is the stand of our republic to settle the problem of the country's reunification peacefully through North-South contact and dialogue, and we always keep the door to dialogue open. We will have an earnest dialogue on this problem with anyone who opposes fratricide, ensures democracy in South Korea, demands the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist army of aggression, maintains an independent position and does not go against communism.

Many difficulties and obstacles lie in the way to the country's reunification. But we will overcome them by the concerted efforts of the entire nation and achieve the cause of independent and peaceful national reunification without fail.

Question: Many countries have huge stockpiles of weapons which threaten the people's survival and sovereignty and the very existence of human civilization. In this very tense international situation, the question of peace or war is important.

What do you think is the responsible task of different countries and statesmen in removing the causes of the tensions and disputes, going over to concrete disarmament and ensuring peace?

Answer: At present, owing to the imperialists' manoeuvres, the international situation is getting extremely strained. Scared at the mounting struggle of the world's revolutionary people for independence against imperialism, the imperialists are making desperate efforts to maintain and expand their sphere of domination.

They are increasing armament in a big way and zealously accelerating the production and deployment of nuclear weapons. They are continuously reinforcing their armed forces of aggression and expanding military bases in major zones of resources and areas of strategic importance. Today the imperialists are increasing the deployment and stockpiling of nuclear and other latest weapons in different parts of the world.

With an ambition of world domination, the U.S. imperialists have recourse to overt armed intervention, subversion and sabotage everywhere in the world in an attempt to stamp out the people's struggle for national independence and for the building of a new society. The recent aggressive act of rank piracy perpetrated by the U.S. imperialists against Grenada, a small island country which had followed the road of independent development, clearly shows that U.S. imperialism is the very strangler of independence and peace and the heinous enemy of the people.

Because of the imperialists' manoeuvres for arms build-up and their aggression against small and weak nations, peace and security are being disturbed in many parts of the world, including Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and southern Africa, and the danger of another world war is growing every day.

The world now finds itself in a grave situation at the crossroads of war or peace. No people and no statesmen in any countries of the world can ever be indifferent to this serious matter which confronts mankind. The peace-loving people and state leaders and other statesmen in all lands, with a clear awareness of their heavy responsibility before humanity and history, must resolutely check and frustrate the imperialists' moves for aggression and war by uniting their voices of justice and strength, and vigorously struggle to defend world peace and security. In order to prevent a new world war and defend universal peace and security, all continents and all countries must launch a powerful movement against war and for peace.

World peace cannot be begged for; it can only be won through the struggle against the imperialist moves for aggression and war. All the world's progressive people must closely unite, raise their voices higher in demand of a durable world peace, expose and condemn the imperialist policy of aggression and war and resolutely counter all their moves for aggression and war.

In order to defend world peace and security, it is essential to check the imperialists' military build-up and armament expansion.

The imperialists' military build-up and armament expansion which is becoming undisguised as the days go by, further aggravates the international situation and increases the danger of a new world war. They must desist from the criminal acts of wasting on weapons manufacture and armament expansion the wealth created by the sweat of the people's brows, and listen to the just voices of the peace-loving people who call for the abolition of nuclear weapons and disarmament.

The Korean people categorically reject the U.S. imperialists' manoeuvres to deploy nuclear weapons of new types in Europe and extend firm solidarity to the peoples of many socialist countries in Europe and other progressive people throughout the world in their struggle against the U.S. imperialist moves to increase nuclear weapons.

We consider that the dissolution of all military blocs is a very important step to prevent a new world war and guarantee a lasting world peace.

Military blocs are a permanent factor jeopardizing universal peace and security. So long as military blocs with huge armed forces stand in confrontation, it will be impossible to ease the international tensions and prevent a new world war. In order to preserve a lasting and durable peace on the globe, it is imperative to abolish the aggressive military blocs of the imperialists and all other military blocs.

Along with the disbandment of military blocs, the imperialists' aggressive military bases and armed forces deployed in foreign countries must be pulled out.

We strongly assert an earliest withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist army of aggression from South Korea and the pull-out of the aggressive military bases and armed forces of the imperialists from the Middle East, Central America and all other parts of the world.

Establishing nuclear-free zones, peace zones, in many parts of the world is an important requisite to universal peace and security.

At the moment, the peace-loving people of the world are deeply apprehensive of the nuclear weapons being deployed and stockpiled in different areas of the world. For preventing a new global war and saving mankind from the holocaust of nuclear war, it is imperative to prohibit the production, testing, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and finally remove all nuclear weapons throughout the world.

We deem it urgent to struggle hard to create nuclear-free zones, peace zones, in different parts of the world for the immediate period ahead and continuously expand them.

These days, anti-war peace campaigns and struggles to build nuclear-free zones, peace zones, go on vigorously in Romania and many other European countries and different regions of the world. It carries a great significance in checking and frustrating the imperialists' moves for aggression and war and defending universal peace and security.

The Korean people are a peace-loving nation; it is the invariable policy of our party and the government of our republic to fight for world peace and security. As in the past, so in the future, too, the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will firmly unite with the peoples of the socialist countries and non-aligned nations and all other progressive people of the world and strive to hinder and thwart the imperialists' manoeuvres for aggression and war and defend universal peace and security.

Question: We know that for solving the difficult problems facing the world economy in the interests of all people, you attach special importance to the strengthening of cooperation and solidarity among the non-aligned nations, the developing countries. We would like to know your views on the opinion of Romania on holding high-level talks of non-aligned countries, developing countries, to map out a joint strategy for a dialogue with the developed countries.

Answer: To destroy the old international economic order and establish a new one is a very important and pressing problem for the non-aligned countries and developing countries.

The imperialists and developed Western countries take natural resources away from the developing countries, drawing on the unfair old international economic order. This holds back many developing countries from achieving an independent development of their national economies, creating economic difficulties in their way. Without destroying the old international economic order, it would be impossible for the developing countries to get rid of international exploitation and plunder and, therefore, to build with success a new society which is independent and prosperous.

The non-aligned countries and developing countries have long since negotiated with the developed Western countries to abolish the unfair old international economic order and establish a new fair one. But those developed countries have refused to respond to the demand of the developing countries for the establishment of a new international economic order. The North-South summit conference of 22 countries held in Cancun, Mexico, several years ago did not see any success owing to the unjust stand and attitude of the developed Western countries which tried to maintain the old international economic order. The imperialists and developed Western countries will never present a new international economic order to the developing countries. If they are to succeed in the struggle for a new international economic order, the non-aligned countries and developing countries must unite closely and lodge strong claims before the developed Western countries and put collective pressure to bear upon them.

The realization of South-South cooperation is the most effective way of destroying the old international economic order and establishing a new one.

There are sufficient possibilities to realize South-South cooperation. Today, the non-aligned countries and developing countries are rich both in manpower and material resources, and each of them has a few kinds of valuable experience and technique acquired in the building of a new society. If they tap and utilize such economic potentialities and possibilities as much as they can and realize South-South cooperation, the developing countries will not only tide over the present economic difficulties and successfully build independent national economies, but also increase the forces of negotiations and resistance on the basis of collective might to frustrate the moves of the developed Western countries and satisfy their demand for the establishment of a new international economic order.

We consider it urgent to convene a South-South summit conference to take positive measures to destroy the old international economic order, establish a new one and realize South-South cooperation. We are of the opinion that the Romanian idea of holding the high-level talks of the non-aligned countries and developing countries agrees with our stand.

We hope for successful opening of a South-South summit conference as soon as possible. If this summit conference is held, it will give a powerful impetus to the struggle of the developing countries to establish a new international economic order and will provide an important opportunity to develop South-South cooperation with effectiveness.

We consider it necessary for the non-aligned countries and developing countries to make joint efforts to convene the South-South summit conference before long.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep thanks to the Romanian people for their positive support and encouragement to the struggle of our people for socialist construction in the northern half of the republic and for the independent peaceful reunification of the country.

I sincerely wish the Romanian people new success in their struggle to build a socialism under the leadership of the Romanian Communist Party headed by esteemed Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu.

SEMINAR HELD ON KIM'S WORK ON KOREAN LANGUAGE

SK060453 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0340 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Pyongyang January 6 (KCNA) -- A scientific seminar marking the 20th anniversary of the publication of "Some Problems Related to the Development of the Korean Language," an immortal classic work of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, was held at the Grand People's Study House on January 5.

"The Respected Leader's Immortal Classic Work 'Some Problems Related to the Development of the Korean Language' Is a Great Linguistic Programme Indicating a Bright Way To Solve the Problem of National Language in the Age of Chuche", "The Great Leader's Original Idea on the Correlation Between the Nation and the Language Is a Programmatic Guideline in the Development of Our Language" and other papers were published at the seminar.

Pointing out that this work is a crystallization of the chuche-based theory on language, a brilliant embodiment of the chuche idea in the linguistic field, speakers profoundly explained the validity and truth, originality and invincible vitality of this theory.

They said the great leader, basing himself on a scientific analysis of the characteristics of language itself and its relations with other social phenomena, gave a new exposition of the essence and function of language as a weapon of the revolution and construction for the independent and creative activities of people.

The linguistic theory of chuche contained in this work, they noted, gives a theoretical and methodological basis to perfectly solve the problem of language because it systematized the theory of man consciously developing language, a social phenomenon, and indicated the road to solve the problem of national language in the interests of the revolution of one's own country.

They explained that the linguistic theory of chuche gives unique answers to the fundamental problems in the chuche-oriented development of national language. This theory clearly expounds the principle of solving the problem of language in combination with the national problem and the problem of scientific and technological development and properly combining national things with the world's common things in the development of language and the orientation to develop our national language by the efforts of the working people building socialism on the basis of the original language of Korea.

Speakers said it is a fundamental problem in improving lingual life in conformity with the socialist way of life to establish a revolutionary habit of lingual life.

The proud history of the development of our language is a brilliant one which has been an epochal turn in the development of national language thanks to the wise guidance of the great leader and the glorious party centre, they stressed.

KIM HWAN SPEAKS AT CULTURE PALACE ANNIVERSARY

SK121058 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA) -- A meeting celebrating the tenth anniversary of the founding of the People's Palace of Culture was held at the palace on January 11.

Comrade Kim Hwan, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-premier of the Administration Council, conveyed a congratulatory message of the Central Committee of the WPK to the employees of the palace.

Over the last ten years following its founding, the message says, the People's Palace of Culture has successfully ensured a great many external functions, important domestic political functions and meetings, and various exhibitions, thus making an active contribution to defending the international prestige of our party and the republic, arming the party members and working people with the party's monolithic ideology and inspiring their revolutionary enthusiasm.

The message notes with high estimation that the employees of the People's Palace of Culture have successfully carried out their revolutionary duty with a high sense of revolutionary consciousness in the past by equipping the palace better, managing it with meticulous care and satisfactorily ensuring all functions.

A report was made at the meeting by Kim Un-Se, director of the People's Palace of Culture.

KYE UNG-TAE AT ANJU COAL MINE COMPLEX MEETING

SK090450 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0402 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA) -- An employees meeting was held at the Anju District coal mining complex on January 7 to carry to thorough fulfillment the programmatic teachings of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song at the 8th plenary meeting of the 6th Central Committee of the party and the militant tasks advanced by him in the New Year address for this year.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Kye Ung-tae, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chief secretary of the South Pyongan provincial party committee; Comrade Ho Chong-suk, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Kim Pong-chu, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions; Choe Kwan-yong, minister of coal industry; and other personages concerned as well as employees of the complex.

The reporter and speakers at the meeting said that the programmatic teaching of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song at the 8th plenary meeting of the 6th Central Committee of the party and his New Year address are a militant programme which indicated a road of successfully fulfilling the national economic plan for 1984, the last year of the Second Seven-Year Plan, and effecting a new change in attaining the ten long-range objectives of socialist economic construction and an inspiring banner which powerfully calls the whole party and the entire people to exploits.

They noted that at the plenary meeting and in his New Year address the great leader set it forth as the central tasks of the socialist economic construction for this year to concentrate efforts on the five fronts of construction in the Sunchon, Anju, Chongjin, Nampo and Hamhung Districts, important construction objectives of weighty significance in the development of national economy of our country, run factories and enterprises at full capacity in all sectors of the national economy to increase production at a high rate and radically raise the people's standards of living.

A resolution was adopted at the meeting.

The attendants at the meeting declared in the resolution that, in hearty response to the programmatic teachings of the great leader at the 8th plenary meeting and his New Year address, they would increase the coal output more than [figure indistinct] times, capital tunnelling above 2.3 times, preparatory tunnelling over 1.7 times and permanent pit construction 3.4 times this year as compared with last year.

Expressing their firm determination to do themselves justice on the Anju District front, which holds an important place in socialist economic construction, they earnestly challenged the workers, technicians and office employees of the factories and enterprises throughout the country to a loyal socialist emulation for fulfilling the national economic plan for this year ahead of schedule, upholding the militant tasks set forth by the great leader at the 8th plenary meeting of the 6th Central Committee of the party and in his New Year address.

DAY OF BUILDING MATERIALS INDUSTRY OBSERVED

SK090409 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0338 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA) -- A meeting was held in Pyongyang on January 8 to convey a congratulatory message of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and mark the 20th anniversary of the publication of "On Some Measures for the Development of the Building Materials Industry," an immortal classic work of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, (January 8, 1964), and the first day of the building materials industry.

Comrade Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and first vice-premier of the Administration Council, conveyed the congratulatory message of the Central Committee of the WPK.

In the message the party Central Committee says that the working people and functionaries in the domain of the building materials industry have effected a radical turn in the development of the building materials industry through their energetic efforts to implement the programmatic teachings of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in the past 20 years. Today our building materials industry has been strengthened as a comprehensively developed independent economic domain so as to fully meet the rapidly growing demand for building materials, it notes.

It highly praises the big contribution made by the workers, technicians, office employees and three-revolution team members in the field of the building materials industry to making the country prosperous and improving the people's living through their devoted endeavours for the development of the industry with boundless loyalty to the party and the leader.

At the meeting Comrade Hyon Mu-kwang, alternate member of the Political Bureau, and secretary, of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, conveyed a decision of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK on effecting once again a great upsurge in the production of cement and attaining the cement target of the Second Seven-Year Plan.

The reporter and speakers at the meeting said that the great leader convened a consultative meeting of functionaries in the field of the building materials industry on January 8, 1964, and comprehensively expounded fundamental problems to be held fast to in the building materials industry and principled ways for their solution, and developed our building materials industry into an independent economic domain developed diversely.

Noting that the glorious party centre set January 8 as day of the building materials industry to be celebrated significantly every year and sent even a congratulatory message to those engaged in this domain, they proudly referred to the great successes made in the production of cement and other building materials in the past period under the energetic guidance of our party.

They stressed that all the working people and officials in the field of the building materials industry should supply in a responsible manner the building materials necessary for the construction on the five district fronts and grand nature-remaking by advancing vigorously at the "speed of the 80s," holding aloft the New Year address of the great leader and the decisions of the eighth plenary meeting of the sixth party Central Committee.

NODONG SINMUN ON AGRICULTURAL WORK UPSURGE

SK101620 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1520 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA) -- NODONG SINMUN today prints an article titled "Our Agriculture Which Has Covered Road of Proud Leap" on the 10th anniversary of the publication of the historic work of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-Song "Let Us Consolidate and Develop the Great Successes in Building a Socialist Countryside" at the national congress on agriculture.

The article notes that in the work the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song proudly summed up signal achievements made in the rural economy in the past and put forward a revolutionary policy to fulfill the tasks set forth in the rural theses at an early date.

The policy of vigorously carrying on the technical, cultural and ideological revolutions advanced in the work has become a firm guiding principle in solving better the peasant question and agricultural question, says the article.

Pointing out that in the last ten years when a great difficulty was laid in agricultural production under the influence of the cold front the great leader created the chuche farming method and put forward the five-point policy of nature remaking, the policy of making revolution in using underground water, the policy of reclaiming tideland and acquiring new land, the policy of giving powerful assistance to agriculture through a drive of the whole party, the whole country and the entire people and other revolutionary agricultural policies and energetically organized and directed the struggle for their implementation, the article says:

Thanks to the wise guidance of the party and the leader our people overcame the influence of the cold front, reaped bumper crops year after year and further consolidated the socialist rural economy system.

What was important in our party's leadership for the development of agriculture was above all the laying of the solid material and technical foundations of agricultural production.

Our party defined the realisation of comprehensive mechanisation and chemicalisation as the basic content for the strengthening of the material and technical foundations of agricultural production and organized work to push ahead with them in a uniform and planned way.

Our party energetically carried on industrial construction for agriculture in cementing the material and technical foundations of the rural economy, reclaimed tideland and obtained new land and rezoned farm land into fields for mechanisation.

Now vigorous endeavours are being made in our country for the completion of comprehensive mechanisation and chemicalisation, and a bright prospect has been opened up for attaining the 15 million ton target of grain production.

Another important thing in our party's leadership for agricultural development was that it raised the ideological level and the cultural and technical level of the agricultural working people.

Under the wise leadership of the party a new change has now taken place in the ideological and moral traits and technical level of our agricultural working people.

The article stresses that to consolidate and develop the successes we have registered over the past decade we should make a new advance in agricultural production this year.

BRIEFS

INDIAN CHUCHE GROUP ARRIVES -- Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA) -- An Indian delegation for study of the chuche idea headed by R.S. Rastogi, professor of Delhi University, arrived here Friday by air. [Text] [Pyongyang KCNA in English 2203 GMT 6 Jan 84 SK]

KOREANS GROUP VISITS -- Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA) -- The home-visiting group of Koreans in Japan headed by Kim Yong-chin, deputy section chief of a department of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), left Pyongyang on January 9 by train after visiting the socialist homeland. [Text] [Pyongyang KCNA in English 2201 GMT 9 Jan 84 SK]

DPRK JOURNALISTS VISIT GDR -- Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA) -- A delegation of the Korean Journalists Union headed by Yun Kyong-taek, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the union, left here today by air for the German Democratic Republic. It was seen off at the airport by Kang Tok-so, vice chairman of the DPRK Radio and Television Broadcasting Committee, and Kim Kwang-su, deputy editor-in-chief of MINJU CHOSON. [Text] [Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 8 Jan 84 SK]

SON: SOUTH, NORTH MUST SETTLE KOREAN ISSUE

SK121304 Seoul YONHAP in English 1251 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Seoul, Jan 12 (YONHAP) -- South Korean Unification Minister Son Chae-sik was quoted as saying Thursday that it ultimately rests with South and North Korea to resolve the Korean question. In an exclusive interview with the HANGUK ILBO, a vernacular daily published here, Son said Seoul, however, does not object to a conference of powers that have stakes in the Korean peninsula because "their support and cooperation can help establish a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula."

Son made a similar proposal in a prepared statement he delivered Wednesday, in which he also renewed Seoul's call for a meeting of the top leaders of both Koreas. Observers said Son meant China, and the United States, and possibly the Soviet Union and Japan, when he referred in Wednesday's statement to nations that are responsible for the partition of the Korean peninsula and the Korean war. He said it would be "desirable" for such nations to join the two Koreas in discussing the Korean question when such participation could be conducive to resolving the issue of Korean reunification.

Shortly before Son made the statement Wednesday, U.S. President Ronald Reagan proposed in Washington that a four-way conference be held among North and South Korea, China and the United States to discuss the Korean question.

Son said in Thursday's interview that Seoul objected to a three-way conference between both Koreas and the United States officially proposed by North Korea Tuesday because North Korea, in effect, aims at bilateral talks with Washington through the so-called three-way meeting.

There are no indications of change in North Korea's policy calling for the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea in order to communize the entire Korean peninsula, Son said. He said South Korea questions the sincerity of the North Korean proposal for a three-way dialogue because it has not acknowledged its responsibility for the terrorist bombing in Rangoon last October that killed 17 prominent South Koreans accompanying President Chon Tu-hwan on a state visit to Burma.

SHULTZ DISCUSSES NORTH'S PROPOSAL AT PRESS CONFERENCE

SK130240 Seoul YONHAP in English 0228 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Washington, Jan 12 (YONHAP) -- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said that the focal point of the Korean question is to initiate discussions between South and North Korea to ease tensions on the peninsula and move toward a more stable situation.

At a press conference Thursday, Shultz discussed the U.S. position on the North Korean proposal for three-way talks among the United States, South and North Korea. Indicating that the North Korean proposal for talks came on the heel of the Rangoon bombing in which 17 prominent South Koreans, including four Cabinet ministers, were killed, Shultz said the attack does call into question the sincerity of the latest overtures. However, he said, "we can examine them and see if there isn't some way in which worthwhile discussions can be gotten under way."

"Everyone wants to get into the act. But I think the real point is that it is important that there be an act, if it is at all possible to have it on a constructive basis," Shultz said. "The South Koreans have called for that."

Disclosing that the U.S. Government is in close contact with South Korea, Shultz said, "both the United States and South Korea want to ease tension on the peninsula, and from all of our discussions with the Chinese, the Japanese, they want that, and North Koreans have said they want that."

"If the presence of ourselves and the Chinese and the Japanese and the Soviets or whoever can be helpful in that, that's fine. But I think we need to remember that the essence of the matter is for North and South Koreans to be doing the talking; it's their peninsula," Shultz said.

He further said the Rangoon bombing seemed to be intended for the South Korean president as well as those who were murdered. "South Koreans understandably called for an apology and an accounting," he said.

LEGISLATORS REACT TO NORTH'S PROPOSAL OF TALKS

SK121320 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 12 Jan 84 p 2

[From the column: "Reporter's Bench"]

[Text] Commenting on the sudden North Korean proposal for tripartite talks, members of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously dismissed it, saying "it is nothing but a pseudo peace offensive aimed at riding out the diplomatic isolation facing North Korea."

Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Pong Tu-wan (DJP -- Yongsan and Mapo, Seoul) said on 12 January: Unless the North Korean puppets come up with proper apology for the assassination bombing in Burma, the conscience of the world will never tolerate the North Korean puppets. He went on: Without saying a word about our proposal for talks between the highest authorities from the North and the South, the North has proposed such preposterous talks. From this fact we can realize just how painful a situation the North Korean puppets find themselves in.

Assemblyman Yi Yun-ki (DKP -- proportional seat) said: The North Korean proposal for tripartite talks, timed to coincide with the visit to the United States by Communist China's Zhao Ziyang, is nothing but a diplomatic ploy designed to burnish its image and I do not see any sign of genuine aspiration for peace. He thus denounced the North Korean puppets.

The KNP Vice President, Yi Man-sop, (Chung-So-Ku -- Taegu) also joined in the denunciation. He said: By coming up with the tripartite talks proposal, North Korea is trying to discard the sovereignty of the ROK Government, which has been recognized by the United Nations as the sole legitimate sovereign nation on the Korean peninsula. In terms of international laws and in terms of international politics, tripartite talks are impossible. If North Korea is genuinely aspiring for easing of the tension and peace on the Korean peninsula, it should immediately respond to the proposal for quadripartite talks.

NSPK SEEKS FOREIGN SOCIALIST COOPERATION FOR TALKS

SK130112 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Rep. Ko Chong-kun, president of the New Socialist Party of Korea [NSPK], yesterday sent cables to the democratic socialist party leaders of 132 nations belonging to the SI (Socialists International) and to the nonaligned bloc. He seeks their cooperation with the Republic of Korea's dialogue efforts with North Korea. In the cables, Rep. Ko took note of the fact that Unification Minister Son Chae-sik hinted that the South-North dialogue, if realized, can be extended to the four power nations which are responsible directly and indirectly for the division of Korea and the Korean war.

Rep. Ko requested the recipient parties of his message to understand the position of the Republic of Korea and the render supports to see the realization of a peaceful solution of Korean issues through dialogue.

FURTHER PRESS REACTION TO NORTH'S TALK PROPOSAL

KOREA TIMES Editorial

SK130035 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Jan 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Dialogue Formulas"]

[Text] Time and again we have stressed that Korea's territorial unification is one paramount task which must be essentially and ultimately achieved by the Koreans themselves and which therefore requires direct talks between the two divided parts to iron out practical and peaceful means.

Under this guiding principle, confirmed by both Seoul and Pyongyang authorities in their joint communique back in 1972, various proposals and efforts have been made to pave the way for the national task -- thus far in vain, largely because of North Korea's dogmatic posture. Seoul's overtures in recent years alone have included such bold calls, aimed at making a breakthrough in the stalemated situation, as one for an unconditional meeting between the highest authorities of South and North Korea.

Lately Pyongyang has come up with a dubious bid for tripartite talks among South and North Korea and the United States. In turn U.S. President Ronald Reagan, taking advantage of Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang's current visit to Washington, has proposed a four-way conference, adding China to the three parties.

As a matter of fact, a multipartite parley, including foreign powers directly concerned with the Korea question, would also be desirable in light of the overriding international factors which led to the territorial division and the Korean war and, what is more, the prevailing international situation involving the Korean peninsula. Such an international meeting should be made to be conducive to the creation of international circumstances in favor of establishing a firm stability and peace on the peninsula, and to resolving inter-Korean issues and ultimately achieving unification.

For all this, the latest North Korean proposal, as already commented in this column, appears to be nothing but a well-calculated plot to edge Pyongyang out of its isolation in the world community following the atrocious bomb attack which it perpetrated in Rangoon against visiting Seoul government leaders.

Although it features a departure from earlier bids, which called for bilateral talks with the United States alone, the Pyongyang overture presents not a modicum of sincerity -- sincerity which is vital for any meaningful proposal and negotiations. The bid for three-way talks, before it was publicly proposed this week, was initially suggested on Oct. 8 last year, the very eve of the Rangoon bombing, and was repeated on Dec. 3, the same day that North Korean armed agents attempted to infiltrate into Tadaepo, near Pusan.

Such timing clearly testifies to the irresponsibility and tricky intent of the North Korean overture, which does not serve the cause of progress. On the other hand, the Reagan proposal for four-way talks is more realistic in that Communist China, which fought in the Korean war on the North Korean side, has a vital stake in developments on the Korean peninsula, and hopefully retains a certain degree of influence in restraining Pyongyang's provocative moves.

Though Zhao understandably expressed in Washington his support of the Pyongyang stand, the possibility cannot be rashly excluded that Beijing may yet join a multipartite conference in the long run.

Aside from the precarious prospects of an international arrangement, what is vital at this stage is that a favorable climate is formulated for resumption of direct dialogue between Seoul and Pyongyang. In this process, Pyongyang should first admit its responsibility for the astounding Rangoon incident -- either formally or informally, as the Seoul government said in its official statement Wednesday, renewing its call for a meeting of the supreme leaders of the South and North.

A sincere and forthright approach by Pyongyang is indeed crucial as it would help to restore mutual trust and understanding, which are of cardinal importance in waging any meaningful talks, whether between Seoul and Pyongyang alone or including foreign powers.

Pyongyang's 'Fictitious' Proposal

SK130116 Seoul the KOREA HERALD in English 13 Jan 84 p 4

[Editorial: "South-North Direct Talks"]

[Text] Undeniably, one sure way to restrain an outlaw is to make him understand that society will not always be merciful. More importantly, he must be made to understand that, no matter how clever, he cannot outwit others forever. Instead, he must be taught that behaving decently is his only option. Awareness of this responsibility must be impressed upon all who want to avoid trouble.

This is certainly the case with North Korea and its attempts to camouflage its heinous atrocities. One telling example was its plotting of the Rangoon massacre. Pyongyang made a peace gesture -- this time by suggesting a tripartite conference involving South and North Korea and the United States -- on the eve of the Oct. 9 bombing last year.

Nonetheless, a Burmese court conclusively proved Pyongyang's involvement. Thereafter, the northern Communists began trumpeting their pacification tune to divert world attention from their criminal machinations. They have been attempting to take advantage of efforts to reduce tensions on the Korean peninsula heightened in the wake of the Rangoon bombing.

Exposing the fictitiousness of Pyongyang's offer, our government Wednesday reiterated its position of advocating direct talks between the "highest authorities" of South and North Korea. It is only natural that both sides of the divided peninsula should be the primary parties conducting talks to solve Korea's problems.

It should be remembered that North Korea refused a suggestion for Seoul-Pyongyang-Washington talks in 1979 on the grounds that Pyongyang did not want foreign countries taking part in discussions of inter-Korea issues. Pyongyang's latest overture shows that it has made an about-face in this regard. Its ploy is aimed at making Seoul appear subjugated to Washington and at forcing an American troops withdrawal from Korea.

A U.S. State Department spokesman said the United States cannot but be skeptical of "the motives and intentions of North Korea in light of what happened in Rangoon."

As Minister of National Unification Son Chae-sik said in an official statement, it is necessary to create international circumstances favorable for insuring peace on the peninsula in view of Korea's historical background. He indicated the desirability of enlarging the proposed talks on Korea to include those countries responsible, either directly or indirectly, for the partition of the peninsula and the Korean War. The United States and China fought each other during the war while the Soviet Union occupied the northern half of the peninsula following the end of World War II, which terminated Japan's colonial rule in Korea.

This indicates either a four-party conference involving Seoul, Pyongyang, Washington and Beijing or a six-way parley that may add Tokyo and Moscow as participants. As China participated in the Korean War and now seems to be in a position of exercising influence, more or less, over Pyongyang, a four-party parley is desirable when the establishment of an international environment is deemed conducive to maintaining peace on the peninsula.

The four-way conference, in our view, is unquestionably preferable to the Pyongyang-proposed tripartite talks in light of the latter's impracticability. As such, we are interested in what is discussed concerning the Korean question during Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang's current visit to the United States. We are even more interested in President Ronald Reagan's visit to China in three months' time.

If North Korea is genuinely interested in reducing tensions on the peninsula and in realizing peaceful unification, it must accept the norms and rules of conduct established in the global community. Beijing is asked to play its role to help bring about internationally acceptable results if it truly intends to contribute toward stabilizing the peninsula.

North Korea, convicted of having masterminded the Rangoon incident and other provocations, must first apologize and punish those responsible for the murders. This is the least Pyongyang must do to prove the sincerity of its peace gesture.

Direct North-South Talks Urged

SK121404 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 12 Jan 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Discussion of Issue of the Korean Peninsula by Countries Concerned"]

[Text] The issue of the Korean peninsula has been discussed actively again in international society. At the moment, the focal point is the issue of the form of dialogue. North Korea has put forth a proposal for tripartite talks; the United States has set forth a proposal for quadripartite talks; and our government has made public its position.

The most important task facing our nation, including both South and North Korea, is to solidify peace from a short-range viewpoint and to achieve unification from a long-range viewpoint.

The best way to discuss the common question of the entire nation is to hold direct talks between responsible representatives from South and North Korea, which are compatriots.

This never means an exclusionist chauvinism. The South-North question is the internal question of our nation. Thus, it will be most honorable and rightful for us to resolve the question ourselves under our initiative on the principle of national self-determination and national identity.

The truth is that there is a clear-cut difference of national interests between our neighboring countries and our nation. It is the basic principle of international politics for each country to try every possible means for the good of its own interest.

It is necessary for us to reexamine the history about the last days of Yi dynasty and the Vietnamese incident so as to understand what were the results of resolving the questions of those countries which had lost their national identity.

The Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars took place in this country which was a majestic nation-state and sovereign country. The United States and Japan signed the Katsura-Taft agreement to take possession of Korea and the Philippines respectively.

In the early 1970's, the issue of the Vietnamese war was discussed among the United States, Red China, and North Vietnam irrespective of the interests and fate of South Vietnam. The regime in the South vanished and the whole Indo-Chinese Peninsula, of course, was communized, including South Vietnam.

It is a known fact that the United States, Red China, Japan, the Soviet Union -- the big powers surrounding our country -- are all now satisfied with the state of no war and division of our country and that they neither think of nor want the discussion of the unification issue. This is not only because it is difficult to predict the situation that will develop after the unification, but also because those big powers have the basic understanding that unification itself is an adventure against their national interests.

Consequently, we have been advocating holding direct talks as the best dialogue formula, talks such as mutual visits and summit talks between the supreme leaders in South and North Korea, prime minister-level talks, or Cabinet-level talks.

No matter what our own questions on this issue may be, it is the stern reality that it is difficult for us to independently resolve our own questions in consideration of the geographic location of the Korean peninsula, where major interests of the neighboring four big powers crisscross; of the international political situation in which those big powers are deeply involved; and of the limitations of the national strength and capability of our country, including both South and North Korea. It is true that without their participation, it is impossible to effectively resolve our questions.

Herein lies the limitations of direct talks between South and North Korea. Therefore, the issue of talks among the countries involved -- like the quadripartite talks or sexpartite talks -- is being discussed. Thus, in order to resolve the questions of the Korean peninsula in an honorable and efficient fashion, we, too, cannot but map out the policy of appropriately harmonizing bilateral talks between South and North Korea with multilateral talks involving neighboring big powers.

Above all, the basic questions of our nation should be dealt with through direct talks and negotiations between representatives from the South and the North. The talks should be carried out in the form of summit talks, Cabinet-level talks, and working-level talks. The talks among the countries concerned should be limited to a supplementary role such as: the talks shall create the relevant atmosphere for the direct talks between the South and the North; when the South-North talks do not proceed, the talks shall mediate and arbitrate; and after the South-North talks end, the talks shall ensure that the agreed matters be observed and implemented.

In view of this, we think that the holding of talks among the countries concerned is inevitable.

Accordingly, basically we find it reasonable to dualize relevant talks. That is, the talks to be dualized are the South-North talks of various levels which deal with practical matters and the talks among the countries concerned which support the South-North talks. But, resumption of the South-North talks should be based on the matters already agreed upon between South and North Korea. This is not only because the content of those agreed matters is rational but also because the agreed matters are a good symbol of national reconciliation.

Thus, direct a telephone line between the South and the North should be reopened and the working-level talks, such as the South-North Coordination Committee talks and the Red Cross talks, should be revived.

It will have been 40 years next year since the national division. The unanimous wishes of the entire nation are that before the 40th anniversary comes, a good start for national coexistence and reconciliation will be made.

Bilateral Talks Starting Point

SK121356 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 12 Jan 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Bilateral, Tripartite, and Quadripartite Talks: The North Should Come to Bilateral Talks if for No Other Reason Than to Choose the Form of Talks"]

[Text] On 11 January, Minister of National Unification Board Son Chae-sik, reiterating the call for meetings between the highest authorities from the North and South, announced that talks among the countries concerned also are desirable as a part of an effort to create international conditions for the settlement of the unification question. At the same time, U.S. President Ronald Reagan noted that quadripartite talks with the participation of North Korea, South Korea, and the United States, and Communist China are more desirable than tripartite talks. On two occasions last year, on 9 October and on 3 December 1983, North Korea proposed U.S.-North Korean talks in the name of tripartite talks in which South Korea could participate. And again on 10 January, the North proposed again tripartite talks through the plenary meeting of the CPC and the SPA Standing Committee.

Now, the North and the South are confronting each other over the issue of choosing the form of talks from among bilateral, tripartite, and quadripartite talks to start with. We have to pay attention, however, to the fact that the choice of the form of talks from among the bilateral, tripartite, and quadripartite talks is a matter of importance that will determine whether we are going to have peace or war.

First of all, North Korea began to propose tripartite talks last October. In the past, when it proposed bilateral talks between the North and the United States -- the so-called peace talks with the United States -- North Korea used to deliver the proposals to the United States directly. In the case of the recent proposals, however, North Korea characteristically delivered them through Communist China, abandoning its habit of delivering them itself. In addition, since it unilaterally ruptured the North-South Coordination Committee talks in 1973, North Korea has used some ambiguous organizations when putting forth some proposals to South Korea or when responding to something that the South proposed. North Korea used such organizations as the so-called Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland and Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland [PFRF]. On 10 January, however, North Korea released a statement in the name of official organizations such as the CPC and the SPA standing committee.

Of course, North Korea did use the name of the SPA in 1974 when it proposed peace treaty talks to the United States. At any rate, North Korea did not use the name of DFRF this time. However, we should heed the fact that the substance of the tripartite talks North Korea has proposed this time is not different at all from that of the past proposals. North Korea's strategy is to copy the pattern used by Communist Vietnam in communizing South Vietnam. The North's tactic is to sign a peace treaty with the United States as did Communist Vietnam, to force the United States to withdraw its troops from the South on the basis of this peace treaty, and then to communize the South on the strength of support from Communist China and the Soviet Union.

What is more, the true purpose of North Korea's proposal for tripartite talks, that its purpose is communication of the South and not reconciliation between the North and the South in the true meaning of the words, has been clearly manifested in the joint statement of the CPC. North Korea insisted on founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo. The confederal system that North Korea has insisted on is premised on removal of the democratic government in the South and then establishment of a communist regime in place of the democratic government. A confederal system does not mean confederation of the North and the South, but means an absorption of the South into communism. In a word, North Korea's proposal for tripartite talks has no new substance. It is nothing but a vicious trick designed to cover up North Korea's standing in the world which has been cornered in the wake of the assassination bombing at the Aung San Mausoleum in Burma.

This being the case, if North Korea genuinely intends to ease the tension between the North and the South and to establish peace, North Korea has no reason whatsoever to refuse the meetings between the highest authorities from the North and the South. The source of tension on the Korean peninsula is not from the United States, Communist China, or the Soviet Union. North Korea is the source of tension and the North and the South are the parties capable of solving the problems. Nobody will deny the notion that the bilateral North-South talks are the starting point for the settlement of peace between the North and the South.

Besides, at the time of division of the Korean peninsula and during the southward invasion called the Korean war, neighboring countries were deeply involved in matters concerning our country. To insure international guarantees for peace on the Korean peninsula, we do not rule out the need for the participation of the involved countries. In this case, it cannot but be desirable for the United States and Communist China, countries that participated in the Korean war and signed the truce agreement, to participate in the talks.

Consequently, North Korea should come to either bilateral talks or quadripartite talks. We also call on North Korea to first come to talks between the North and the South if for no other reason than that the two sides will have to choose the form of talks among the bilateral, tripartite, and quadripartite talks.

U.S., Chinese Role Sought

SK120205 Seoul KHONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 11 Jan 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Effort To Take the Initiative in Solving the Question of the Korean Peninsula Is Urgent: We Direct Our Attention to the 'Easing of Tension' Discussed in the U.S.-Communist China Talks"]

[Text] We assume that the current Reagan-Zhao Ziyang talks will greatly contribute to the substantive promotion of the U.S.-China relations. The leaders of the two nations have confirmed not only the improvement of relations between the two countries but also the responsibility of the United States and China for maintaining peace in the world. They also agreed on detailed measures for economic and technical cooperation and exchanges between Washington and Beijing.

With the visit to the United States by Zhao Ziyang, and occasion for the normal development of the relations between the two nations, which made little progress since the normalization of U.S.-Chinese relations in February 1979, was provided. We consider that such development and promotion of U.S.-Chinese relations will have an important effect upon the situation of the world. In particular, in recent international situation in which U.S.-USSR relations are unstable, the promotion of the U.S.-Chinese relations will have a direct effect upon the situation in Asia and in Northeast Asia.

From our own standpoint, Zhao Ziyang's visit to the United States and his talks with U.S. leaders, including Reagan and Shultz, are the center of our great interest. According to recent reports, North Korean Communists' making eyes at the United States by taking advantage of development of China's relations with the United States is growing more undisguised and there is an indication that North Korea's attempt to make a political approach to the question of the Korean peninsula through the window of Communist China will have a concrete nature. This is supported by the rumor of North Korea's proposal for a so-called tripartite talks. Thus, we estimate that the North Korean Communists' attempt to approach the United States in connection with the strained situation on the Korean peninsula will be more active.

It has been learned that the issues of Taiwan and the Korean peninsula are the two difficult problems in developing U.S.-Chinese relations. The interests of the United States and China are sharply interacting with each other in these two questions. However, it is worthy of our notice that Reagan and Zhao Ziyang confirmed during their talks that such factors should not function negatively in the development of the relations between the two countries. The interests of the United States and China in the question of the Korean peninsula are being focused in the relaxation of tension. We feel that this is based on the common consciousness in the elimination of obstacles.

What makes an issue is the possibility of adjusting the interests of the United States and China in the question of the Korean peninsula. The fact that Reagan agreed with Zhao Ziyang on easing tension on the Korean peninsula can be noted as a practical indication of the possibility of adjusting the two nations' interests in the question of the Korean peninsula. This is a party which belongs to the kernel of political issues between the United States and the ROK. We believe that we should deal with this issue from the standpoint of implementing our northward policy and of strategy for developing the ROK-U.S. relations.

The development of U.S.-Chinese relations, which can be regarded as a challenge to our practical diplomatic capability, requires our new strategy to cope with the realities in a more substantive and basic manner. When the U.S. global strategy faces a new situation in Northeast Asia due to the development of U.S.-Chinese relations, a change in the situation on the Korean peninsula may be required and when it seeks to strengthen a more flexible regional security system, a developmental change in the political and diplomatic relations between the ROK and the United States may be necessary.

We should fully expose and watch the deceitful nature of North Korea's proposal for tripartite talks and the cunning nature of its peace offensive. We also feel that we should understand more realistically the positions of the two countries toward the "easing of tension of the Korean peninsula" brought forth during the talks between Reagan and Zhao Ziyang.

Directing our attention to the possibility that only the interests of the United States and China may be pursued in discussing the question of the Korean peninsula in the Reagan-Zhao Ziyang talks, we should strengthen our initiative in establishing the structural order for creating peace on the Korean peninsula. We would like to warn once again of the dangerous nature of discussing the question of the Korean peninsula without advancing the measures to basically restrain and eliminate military adventurism of the North Korean Communists.

Canadian Reaction to N-S Talks

AK130127 Seoul YONHAP in English 0106 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Toronto, Jan 12 (YONHAP) -- Major Canadian news media Thursday said, South Korea has rejected North Korea's proposal for tripartite peace talks involving South and North Korea and the United States. Wire service stories in the prestigious GLOBE AND MAIL quoted Unification Minister Son Chae-sik as saying "South Korea would not enter such talks unless the North Koreans admit, apologize and punish those responsible for the Oct 9 bombing in Rangoon."

The GAZETTE, the English language daily, published in the French-speaking provincial city of Montreal, said in a front page story that South Korea termed the North Korean offer "insincere." It added China Wednesday, strongly endorsed the North's proposal, calling it "conducive" to easing tension on the Korean peninsula. Although the Canadian media gave prominent coverage to the story, they did not comment on it.

NORTH TRYING TO RESHAPE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE

SK120636 Seoul YONHAP in English 0600 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Seoul, Jan 12 (YONHAP) -- In an apparent effort to reshape its image in the international community following its terrorist attack in Rangoon, Burma, last October North Korea has changed its foreign line-up of diplomats, according to monitor of North Korean news.

The NAEWOE press reported Thursday that North Korea has replaced 15 chiefs of foreign diplomatic missions, including those in China and India, since its attempt to kill South Korean President Chon Tu-hwan during his state visit to Rangoon, Burma, Oct 9. North Korean agents detonated a powerful remote-controlled bomb but missed assassinating the South Korean leader by a few minutes. Seventeen South Koreans, including four cabinet ministers, were killed in the bomb attack.

Among the countries where North Korea has replaced its diplomatic chiefs are Switzerland, Poland, Rumania and Yugoslavia. Ranking government and party officials in foreign countries also have been changed as part of its renewed diplomatic offensive against the South, the news agency noted.

SPECIAL U. S. TRADE MISSION TO VISIT 17-21 JAN

SK130932 Seoul YONHAP in English 0914 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Seoul, Jan 13 (YONHAP) -- A 20-member "U.S. President's Special Trade Mission," led by counselor to the President James Jenkins and Assistant Secretary of Commerce Richard McElheny, will visit South Korea Jan 17-21, the U.S. Embassy here said Friday.

The mission is a follow-up to the visit of U.S. President Ronald Reagan in November for the purpose of strengthening trade and economic cooperation between Seoul and Washington, an embassy press release said. The mission members are from well-known U.S. firms in the field of medical equipment, construction and engineering, telecommunications and others. In addition to Jenkins and McElheny, the trade group includes James Phillips, deputy assistant secretary for industry projects, trade development, Department of Commerce; Mitchell Stanley, director, office of special trade mission, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce; Kenneth Roe, chairman of Burns and Roe, Inc.; Joseph Battin, vice president of Bechtel Group, Inc and 14 other U.S. businessmen.

During their four-day stay here, the mission is scheduled to call on President Chon Tu-hwan at his residence, the release said. The mission also will meet with Deputy Prime Minister Shin Byung-hyun, ministers of foreign affairs, commerce-industry, finance, health-social affairs, energy, and other government officials, and business leaders.

SHOCK EXPRESSED OVER ARREST OF PASTOR, OTHERS

SK121219 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 12 Jan 84 p 11

[Text] Pastor Kim Chun-yong, chairman of the committee for joint measures against the arrest of professors Yi Yong-hui and Kang Man-kil and the Rev Cho Sung-hyok, held a news conference at 1000 on 12 January with domestic and foreign reporters at the secretariat of the National Council of Churches [NCC] on the 7th floor of the Christian Building on Chongno Street in Seoul, and said that he "cannot hold back shock and regret over the incident."

KOREA HERALD CRITICIZES NORTH KOREAN SUPPORTERS

SK120005 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Jan 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Misdirected Intellectuals"]

[Text] It was astounding to see a handful of highbrow personalities in our society influenced by ideas and thoughts sympathetic to the absurd contentions of Kim Il-sung and his bellicose regime in North Korea. Two former professors of Seoul universities and a Protestant pastor have been arrested on charges of violating the National Security Law by supporting the anti-ROK lines of North Korea. They reportedly organized a lecture series designed to imbue school teachers and students with pro-Pyongyang views clashing head on with the standing policy of our government with regard to the peaceful unification of the peninsula.

According to police investigators, the Protestant minister, Cho Sung-hyok, who organized the lecture series, argued that the unification policy of our government is "a scheme to perpetuate the territorial division." Instead, he favors the Pyongyang-proposed Koryo confederation concept as "a reasonable approach" to unification. At the request of Cho, the two ex-professors gave lectures sympathetic to North Korea to school teachers. The former faculty members went as far to describe the 1950 North Korean invasion of the south as a "legitimate anti-imperialistic struggle for building a nation-state." They even asserted that a good opportunity for unification was lost as a result of the intervention of the United Nations troops. It is a matter for serious concern that there might still be some other highly educated people who are supposed to be well aware of our policy guidelines in dealing with the North Korean regime, but who are gripped with foolhardy illusions detrimental to the unity and harmony of all our people so important at this juncture.

Had the dangerous and antistate thinking and activity of the three continued undetected at greater length, the safety and order of our society would have been exposed to a formidable menace and public unrest as they were in a position of teaching and guiding the nation's youth. According to statistics, more than 70 percent of the total population of this Republic belongs to the age bracket called "the postwar generation," those totally devoid of any experience of suffering from the horrible atrocities and brutalities committed by the North Korean invaders during the Korean war.

Thus, it is one of the most urgent tasks imposed on us adults to look for a most effective and convincing way of letting our young people realize how important it is to be equipped with a correct and firm understanding of our basic policies pertaining to national security and unification stance. It goes without saying that sympathy with the North Korean invasion of the South will lead our youths to an erroneous conviction that even a fratricidal war can be justified for territorial unification even at the risk of a Communist takeover. This would, therefore, be tantamount to acts aiding the enemy and cannot be tolerated.

As for the so-called "Koryo Conferderation" advocated by the North as a means of communizing the peninsula, Pyongyang demands as prerequisites that American troops pull out of South Korea and that a government amenable to communism be set up in Seoul.

Approval of the confederation scheme, therefore, only plays into the hands of the Communist propaganda machine, every ready to capitalize on whatever opportunities available for the realization of their cherished goal of communizing this Republic.

It behooves us all to arm ourselves afresh, on this occasion, with a firm belief that only the defense of freedom and democracy will guarantee us the chance for survival and prosperity.

CHIN WARNS AGAINST PREMATURE ELECTIONEERING

SK130051 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Chin I-chong yesterday stressed that any "heated" premature electioneering is not desirable for the sake of political and social stability. He said that there were reports of "overheated" election campaigning in recent days.

Though the next parliamentary elections can be held after October this year, Chin said, it is undesirable that the campaigning be heated up from early this year for the sake of "Stability and a steady national development." Chairing this year's first cabinet session, the premier said, "We also should make efforts to prevent that from happening." His remarks were released by a government spokesman shortly after the cabinet meeting.

As to the recently much publicized plan to elevate the ranks of ranking local government employees, Premier Chin defended it as "inevitable" for decentralizing the central government and giving better services to local inhabitants. He said, however, there will be no basis change in the administration's cherished goal of achieving a "lean government."

Touching on recent reports about the "bloated" budget of the Seoul City administration, the premier said there appeared to be "misunderstanding" on the part of the news media. He indicated that such "misunderstanding" stemmed from lack of well-organized publicity efforts by government and municipal office. The budget, he said, was formulated in a right manner, the premier supervises the budget and major programs of the Seoul city government.

Chin urged government officials as a whole to increase efforts to provide a "correct" picture of what central and local governments are doing to the public. He, in this regard, suggested that government agencies take much advantage of their respective spokesmen in consultation with the Ministry of Culture and Information. The premier, meanwhile, told Cabinet members to refrain from formulating "unrealistic" policy programs which are out of the reach of their budgets.

CAREFUL SCREENING URGED FOR STUDENT REINSTATEMENT

SK130045 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Jan 84 p 8

[Text] The Ministry of Education has instructed colleges and universities, now preparing for the reinstatement of ousted students, to take utmost care in screening students to be readmitted.

In meetings with college deans and university presidents, the ministry warned against the possible easy-going attitude to reinstate a minimum number of students out of fear for renewed campus unrest they may cause. The ministry also warned against the unconditional grant of readmission to applying students. It asked colleges and universities to consider whether or not the students have repented their past wrong-doings.

Minister Kwon E-hyok met with university presidents in Seoul and Incheon Monday and discussed necessary steps for the reinstatement and guidance measures. The minister told the university presidents to try to admit as many students as possible. He said, however, that individual schools should be in charge of guiding the students toward the right direction. Kwon will also preside over a meeting of college deans Monday to discuss student guidance measures for the coming semester.

RULING PARTY DRAGGED ALONG BY GOVERNMENT

SK121341 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 11 Jan 84 p 5

[Article by Political Desk reporter Yu Chong-hyon, from the column "Reporter's Memo-book": "The DJP, a Bridesmaid"]

[Text] We cannot but feel that the plan to upgrade the position of and to expand the organizations of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Seoul City Administration, which the government and the DJP have decided to implement as originally drafted, is irrational, both from the viewpoint of principle and the manner which it was handled.

Basically, the plan of the Home Ministry violates the logic a "simple government" advanced by the government in 1981, when it reduced the number of organizations.

The Home Ministry attributes the need for such a measure to local development and administrative demand. However, we would like to point out that such a measure has not become suddenly required in recent days. The situation that existed in 1981, when the Home Ministry decided to gradually abolish the system of deputy magistrate of country, is not greatly different from that today.

If the government puts forth convenience as its argument whenever it advances a new policy, it is an indication that it forces the people to forsake trust in the government. Should the government find inconsistency in previous policies, it should admit this frankly and should sincerely attempt to make revisions, and not show its ugly side.

Another question of principle concerns equilibrium with other government offices. The Home Ministry formulated its plan to upgrade the local government offices on the basis of regional development and ever-increasing demand for administration. The Home Ministry's claim regarding regional development, which disregards the question of equilibrium with other ministry offices, leaves us with the impression that the Home Ministry is seized by self-righteousness, without taking into account the morale of the government officials in other ministries.

The Home Ministry's changed regulations left many unanswered questions in the course of discussion of the regulations by government offices such as the Economic Planning Board and the Ministry of Government Administration, and also the DJP. It raised more unanswered questions in the course of discussion between the Home Ministry and the DJP, not to mention questions raised in consultations with other government offices.

In the course of discussing and ultimately agreeing to the Home Ministry's revision of the regulations, the DJP leaves us with a strong impression that it was dragged along by the government without even persuading its members within the party who opposed it, not to speak of its failing to address the public's concern. It is difficult to understand why the DJP, which has frequently claimed its superiority over the government, is apparently dragged along by the administration.

The DJP, which appeared to be perplexed because of the Home Ministry's plan to upgrade the local government offices by the end of last week, and said that it had not been consulted by the government in this regard, suddenly changed its attitude, deciding to support it in a blitzkrieg manner. The DJP may have found a persuasive reason to agree to the plan or it might have been forced to support it. Either way, it cannot avoid the criticism that it was rash and that it was not in control as a large political party.

When the opposition parties took the government and the ruling party to task on the grounds that the Home Ministry's plan is an electioneering ploy, some of the DJP assemblymen clearly expressed their skepticism over this matter, saying that such a plan arouses unnecessary misunderstandings because of its timing. If there were any explanation, the DJP should have at least convinced them with it. Convincing them in this regard would have helped the government and the ruling party and would have been helpful to the entire political circle.

If it were any kind of feeling or atmosphere rather than clear logic that made the DJP change its position on the afternoon of 9 January, after an unofficial meeting of the party's executive members -- up until that morning, the party had not taken a definite stand on the issue of whether or not to support it -- we cannot help suspecting the DJP's function as a ruling party. Even though it is a little late, we hope that the DJP will recover its image that it is not a party that only pays lip-service to such flattering words as budget freezing and small government, and will put into practice at least a small portion of such words and principles.

DJP LEADER DISCUSSES OVERALL POLITICAL ISSUES

SK130040 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Jan 84 p 4

[By Pak Mu-chong]

[Text] With the next parliamentary elections in mind, political parties have been brisk from the very beginning of the New Year, heralding a sizzling confrontation between the rival parties during the whole year.

Terming this year as the "year of politics," the ruling and opposition parties are gearing up to determine their future through the voting showdown that may take place at any time after Oct. 12. Under this political circumstance, THE KOREA TIMES discussed overall political issues with Rep. Yi Chong-chan, floor leader of the ruling Democratic Justice Party. Yi will be a central figure in the upcoming bipartisan negotiations over the projected revision of the Parliamentary Election Law and other political matters. The 47-year-old politician, one of the key architects of the DJP's founding three years ago, expresses, first of all, his views on the amending of the election law: The DJP has yet to finalize its plan on how to rewrite it.

"We think that the existing law must maintain the basic frame as it is. But, we see the need to supplement it in order to cope with the reorganizations of the administrative districts which have been made for the past years." The basic position of the DJP toward the issue of revising the law is to ensure a fair election atmosphere at all costs, he said.

"Negotiations between the rival parties should be kicked off after they produce their own alternatives by giving a full study to them," he stressed. Opposing a hasty conclusion on the matter, he hoped the bipartisan dialogue will begin in March at the earliest date. He also said that opinions from outside the political parties, in particular political aspirants, should be taken into account.

At present, the second opposition Korea National Party has suggested that the number of lawmakers elected in a constituency be increased according to the proportion of the population size instead of the present uniform number of two.

But, he raised an objection to the KNP's idea, saying that it may give birth to factions in the parties because they will be forced to put up plural candidates in a constituency under the proposed system.

Turning to the controversial topic about the date of the next poll, the DJP whip said that there are two choices, either within this year or early next year.

"I think that holding the election two or three months before the expiration of present house term in April will be more reasonable than the year-end election, in other words early next year," he said. "Of course, we should also consider carrying out the poll in December. But December elections will spoil the current house's last regular session as the lawmakers are expected to concentrate only on election campaigning," he said.

As to the long-pending issue involving the second lifting of a political ban on about 300 persons, the DJP floor leader confessed, "I have not even the slightest information about the timing."

However, the government will not drag it on, since President Chon Tu-hwan has promised a gradual removal of the ban," he said.

"In my personal view, the lifting depends on the political and social atmosphere, and the activities of the already-reinstated politicians," he stated. Asked about the future course of the former politicians, he stressed that they should be given a stage on which they can resume their political career in an attempt to eliminate any political uneasiness that may follow the lifting. "In this sense, I think that they must be admitted into existing parties, and the DJP will make sincere efforts to welcome them. The DJP's action should not end in a symbolic gesture," he said.

Recently, the DJP plus the government have provided the opposition camp with a good chance to launch aggressive offensives by deciding to elevate the bureaucratic ranks of some local administrative posts. The opposition camp is resolved to initiate strong political offensives, apparently believing that the plan of the government and the DJP targets the next election by encouraging the ranking provincial officials having connection with elections. He explains: "Only one percent of the total 135,000 public servants of local administrations will benefit by the plan. We should not neglect service for the people only to live up to the ideal of "small" government. "The measure will help make healthy the structure of the officialdom. We think that the measure has been taken, rather, belatedly," he said. "If we fear criticism connected with the forthcoming elections, we will not be able to do anything this year," he said.

Rep. Yi, one of the military elites who led the national reform after the death of former President Pak Chung-hee, graduated from the Korean Military Academy (16th class). Before joining the "reformatives elites" in 1980, he had served as a political attache of the Korean Embassy in the United Kingdom and as chief of planning and coordination office of the Agency of National Security Planning. Since he was elected for the National Assembly in 1981, he has been assuming the post of the party floor leader.

ROK OPPOSITION LEADER URGES CONSTITUTION CHANGE

OW130343 Tokyo KYODO in English 0324 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Seoul Jan 13 KYODO -- South Korea's opposition leader Kim Yong-sam said Friday he planned to form a committee to press the government of President Chon Tu-hwan to revise the Constitution. At a press conference at his Seoul home, Kim, former president of the defunct New Democratic Party, also said he will urge the government to guarantee the free return home and free political activities for dissident leader Kim Tae-chung, now staying in the United States in exile. Kim did not disclose the composition of the committee under planning. Kim has been banned political activities under a special decree. He went on a hunger strike last summer to demand for democracy in the country.

WORKERS EMPLOYED OVERSEAS JAILED FOR SPYING

SK121212 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 12 Jan 84 p 11

[Text] Pusan (YONHAP) -- Penalties ranging from 10 years in jail together with many years suspension of civil rights to 18 months in jail with 2 years suspension of civil rights and 3 years probation were meted out to 7 defendants involved in the incident of a spy ring of South Korean workers employed overseas.

UNEN CONDEMNS U.S., PRC SUPPORT OF AFGHAN REBELS

OW130757 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1712 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, January 12 (MONTSAME) -- The decision of the White House to allocate greater sums for arming and supporting the terrorist Afghan counter-revolutionary gangs testifies to the intention of the U.S. to step up the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] and the people of this sovereign state, writes the Mongolian national daily UNEN. The paper notes that China is taking a direct part in financing and rendering all-out support to the Dushman rabble, which is committing bloody crimes on the territory of that young state. All this, underlines the paper, creates a real threat to the security and independence of not only Afghanistan but the other neighbouring peace-loving states. Namely the forces of imperialism and hegemonism are the main source of tension in the region and not the limited contingent of Soviet troops stationed in Afghanistan at the request of the legitimate government of the DRA. The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, pursuing a consistent foreign political course, are firmly convinced that the situation around Afghanistan can be settled only through peaceful political means, notes the UNEN.

MONTSAME SUPPORTS CALL FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS BAN

OW130753 Ulaanbaatar MONTAME in English 1708 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, January 12 (MONTSAME) -- The Mongolian people warmly welcome and fully support a new proposal of the Warsaw Treaty-member states on delivering Europe from chemical weapons. In this connection a MONTSAME commentator writes: The new peace proposal of the fraternal socialist countries is regarded in the MPR as a manifestation of goodwill aimed at ensuring the most sacred human right to life and preventing a nuclear war threat. The proposal expresses sincere aspirations and unswerving will of the peoples of the socialist countries for a lasting and just peace on earth. Exclusion of chemical weapons from military arsenals was and is one of the crucially urgent problems, requiring a sensible solution. The peoples of the world are resolutely coming out against this deadly weapon. However, the present U.S. Administration is extending the production and increasing the stockpile of chemical weapons, the bulk of which is stored on the European territory. The American imperialists are trying to turn Europe into a spring-board of chemical warfare. The realisation of the new peace proposal of the fraternal socialist countries in the interests of consolidating European security could lay the foundation for reducing the chemical arsenals and promote lessening of the threat of war and strengthening of mutual trust among states.

TSEDENBAL, BATMONH GREET BURMESE COUNTERPARTS

OW070357 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1710 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, January 6 (MONTSAME) -- Y. Tsendenbal, chairman of the presidium of the M.P.R. People's Great Hural, and J. Batmonh, chairman of the M.P.R. Council of Ministers, sent a congratulatory message to San Yu, president of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, and Maung Maung Kha, premier of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of gaining independence by the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma.

MAURITIUS DELEGATION BUYS RICE, DEPARTS

BK110137 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] The Mauritius trade delegation led by Mr Kader Bhayat, minister of commerce and shipping industry, which has been visiting Rangoon to buy rice from Burma, left Rangoon by air at 1600 today. The Mauritius minister was seen off at Rangoon Airport by Trade Minister U Khin Maung Gyi, Deputy Trade Ministers U Ba Hla and Colonel Kyaw Tun, and responsible Trade Ministry officials. During their stay in Burma the Mauritius trade delegation members called on Trade Minister U Khin Maung Gyi and also held talks with responsible officials of the agricultural and Farm Produce Trade Corporation Myanma Export-Import Corporation, and the Ports Corporation. The delegation bought rice from Burma.

SRI LANKAN MINISTER, ENTOURAGE END VISIT

BK110136 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] The visiting minister of finance and planning of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Mr Ronnie de Mel, and his entourage left Rangoon by a Burma Airways aircraft at 1600 today. They were seen off at Rangoon Airport by Thura U Tun Tin, deputy prime minister and minister for planning and finance; Dr Maung Shein, deputy minister for planning and finance; U Hla Shwe, deputy foreign minister; and responsible officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Foreign Economic Relations Department. Earlier this morning, the visiting minister and his party visited [name indistinct] to study high-yield paddy cultivation work.

CLASHES BETWEEN SHANS, LAHU SPILL OVER THAI BORDER

BK120140 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Chiang Rai -- Three Thai villagers were killed and five others wounded when a clash between Shan rebel forces and Lahu (Muser) hill tribesmen who have joined the Burmese Communist Party spilled over into a Thai village in Fang District on Tuesday. Border Patrol Police [BPP] sources said the clash, which broke out on Doi Lak Taeng hill in Burma opposite Mae Ai District, also resulted in the deaths of about 16 BCP men. About 30 BCP men were wounded, the sources said, adding that the Shans also seized a number of weapons and ammunition.

Troops of the Shan United Army under drug warlord Khun Sa overran a Lahu post near the Thai border on Tuesday after a day-long battle. About 150 Shan rebels moved from their stronghold in Doi Lang opposite Mai Ai District of this northern province and attacked the Lahu base on Doi Lak Taeng hill which was defended by about 100 men. The Shan rebels were under the command of Capt Lao Chao.

The BPP sources said the Shan rebels seized several M60 light machineguns and about 200 rounds of ammunition found in the camp. They also took 10 AK47 assault rifles and about 900 rounds of ammunition.

The sources added that after the clash the Lahu hilltribesmen fled to Cha Sa village in Fang District but were followed by the Shans. Another clash between the two forces broke out at the village, the sources said, adding that three Thai Muser hilltribesmen of the village were killed in the fighting. Five other villagers were also wounded in the clash and the SUA troops burnt down three homes in the village.

The sources said that BPP forces have now pushed the rival factions back into Burma.

Meanwhile BPP sources said yesterday that Khun Sa is secretly receiving treatment for drug addiction but not in Kanchanaburi Province. The sources said that Khun Sa is being treated in Muang Kan inside Burma, opposite Mae Chan District here and about 20 kilometres from his former stronghold of Ban Thoet Thai (formerly Ban Hin Taek). The sources said he moved to the area from Doi Lang about three or four months ago. They added that Chiang Si Chuan, Khun Sa's right hand man, has accompanied the drug kingpin to Muang Kan and has placed his forces at Doi Lang under the command of Captain Jai Sai.

THAI PAPER SAYS SUA PREPARED FOR GOVERNMENT ATTACK

BK110312 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Chiang Mai -- Shan rebels fortified defences and strengthened air-raid shelters in preparation for a Burmese Government attack, Border Patrol Police sources said yesterday. A 500-strong Rangoon force crossed the Salween River on Monday and were heading for the Shan United Revolutionary Army stronghold at BanPang Mai Sung, opposite this province's Chiang Dao District, they said. The Rangoon Government has launched operations against various rebel factions near the Thai border.

JOURNAL CITED ON DEATH OF SHAN INSURGENT LEADER

BK121751 Hong Kong AFP in English 1016 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Hong Kong, Jan 12 (AFP) -- The commander of the Burmese insurgent Shan State Army (SSA), Sao Hso Noom, has died near the Burma Communist Party headquarters at Panghsang on the Sino-Burmese border, the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW reported today. Sao Hso Noom, who was also president of the SSA's political wing, the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP), died apparently from natural causes on November 14, according to reports reaching Bangkok, the Hong-Kong based magazine said. Hpaung Hpa has been appointed SSA chief but no SSPP president has been announced, although Kaw Lin Da has been named political commissar.

THAI PAPER ON KAREN SIEGE OF GOVERNMENT STRONGHOLD

BK130125 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Tha Song Yang, Tak -- Karen rebels had encircled a Burmese mountain stronghold at Nawtaya and were poised to close in on Rangoon forces, sources said yesterday. Thai Border Patrol Police said hundreds of Burmese 66th Division troops were being rushed in a 30 truck convoy towards Kawkareik and Myawadi, opposite Mae Sot District, to help fend off the Karen.

About 400 government troops had been holding out at the base, 20 kilometres west of this border district, for about five months. The stronghold was regarded as strategically important as it overlooked the Karen camp and their economic lifeline at Maw Pokay.

Sporadic fighting continued since last night when a 150-strong Karen National Liberation Army unit and a 200-strong combined minority faction under the banner of National Democratic Front began moving towards Nawtaya, said the sources.

Burmese defenders had to resort to air drops for supplies as a result of the siege. Sources said an attack was imminent.

Government forces launched a massive attack on Maw Pokay last June but were forced to retreat after the Karen inflicted casualties said to be up to 150 dead and 90 wounded. The Karen said eight rebels were killed and 40 wounded.

SPK REPORTS THAI BORDER VIOLATIONS 17-23 DEC

BK260647 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0445 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Phnom Penh, 26 Dec (SPK) -- Between 17 and 23 December, four Thai L-19's made reconnaissance flights over Chong Chom, Yeang Dangcum, Poipet, Phnum Malai, and Konrieng, located between 2 and 3 km inside Kampuchean territory. At sea, the Thai Navy for the 116th time violated Kampuchean territorial waters in the sectors located between 4 and 34 nautical miles from Koh Kong, Wai, and Tang islands. On land, the Thai side launched 6 attacks against the Preah Vihear ruins; 22 against Thmar Puok, Poipet, Nimit, Kop, Mak Hoeun, Buo, Konrieng, Pailin, and Ta Sanh (Battambang); 16 against Route 56 (Pursat), and 12 against hill 343 (Koh Kong). During the same week, Kampuchean border guards put out of action 141 Khmer reactionaries, took 22 prisoners, and seized 33 rifles and other military equipment.

SOUPHANOUVONG MEETS NEW CANADIAN, FINNISH ENVOYS

BK121247 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] On the afternoon of 11 January, Souphanouvong, president of state and chairman of the Supreme People's Council, received, at the Presidential Office, credentials from John Lawrence Payntre, newly designated ambassador of Canada to Laos whose embassy is situated in Bangkok. Later that afternoon, the president also received credentials from Esko Antero Lipponen, newly designated ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Finland to Laos whose embassy is situated in Hanou. Accompanying President Souphanouvong in receiving the credentials from the ambassadors of the two countries were Soulivong Phasitthidet, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Thongdam Chanthaphon, deputy minister and chief of the Presidential Office.

On this occasion, President Souphanouvong welcomed the Ambassadors John Lawrence Payntre and Esko Antero Lipponen who have been designated by their governments to take the ambassadorial posts in Laos. He expressed his conviction that the friendly relations between the Lao Government and people and the governments and peoples of Canada and Finland will be developed with each passing day. The conversations between the guests and the hosts on both occasions continued in an atmosphere of close friendship.

ARTILLERY, MORTAR FIRE IN CLASHES NEAR THAI BORDER

BK120159 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Aranyaprathet -- Clashes broke out again between Vietnamese forces and Kampuchean guerrillas near the border yesterday, Thai military sources said. Fighting between Khmer Rouge guerrillas and Vietnamese troops erupted in the morning near a Vietnamese forward base in the Mak Hoen mountain area. The sources said the skirmish, which lasted about two hours, flared up when the guerrillas launched a probing attack on elements of the Second Territorial Defence Regiment based in Mak Hoen. The attack, the sources said, drew retaliatory artillery fire from a Vietnamese firebase in Nimit, more than 10 km away. No further details of the clash were available and no stray shells landed on Thai soil, the sources added.

Meanwhile, Vietnamese troops used artillery and mortars against about 50 fighters of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) who were attacking their bases near the Kampuchean villages of Yieng Dangcum and Prev, the sources said. The Army yesterday permitted reporters to enter areas close to the Thai-Kampuchean border for the first time in several months. A POST reporter who visited the border areas in Ta Phraya District said they were mainly quiet, with none of the black marketeering which once thrived there.

COALITION FORCES CLAIM SRV USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS

Siem Reap Cases Cited

BK100543 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] On 10 December, the Vietnamese soldiers posted in Pongro village, Pongro commune, Chikreng District, Siem Reap Province, sprayed toxic chemicals at (Tumnop M'kak), killing an inhabitant. On 22 December, during an operation against our people who were harvesting rice in Chikreng District, Siem Reap Province, the Vietnamese soldiers spread toxic chemicals into rivers and ponds, killing two inhabitants who drank water from these sources.

The Vietnamese aggressors have continued to use toxic chemicals in a systematic manner to kill our people. In particular, they have sprayed toxic chemicals in villages and water sources, such as rivers, streams, ponds, wells, and even people's jars. Our people died one after another after drinking water from these sources.

Therefore, we urge our people always to be careful in consuming water, food, and vegetables and in traveling into any area where the Vietnamese aggressors may be able to spray toxic chemicals or toxic gas. You should keep a close watch on the Vietnamese aggressors in order to timely smash and check their attempt to use toxic chemicals to kill our people. The most effective measure to check the Vietnamese aggressors' criminal act of using toxic chemicals to kill our people is for all of our Kampuchean people to join with our Democratic Kampuchean National Army and guerrillas in the struggle to drive all the Vietnamese aggressors from our Kampuchea.

Masks Sent To Laos

BK111615 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 1000 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] According to a report from Laos, the Vietnamese Le Duan clique has sent 13 truckloads of Vietnamese troops from Vietnam along Route 9 to station in Savannakhet. These new Vietnamese soldiers brought gas masks with them. According to the report, a number of these new Vietnamese soldiers was sent to suppress the Mong tribal people who fled from various areas to live in the (Hong Kiya) hilly area. Some others were sent to launch activities along the Lao-Thai border. These Vietnamese activities have caused great concern to countries in the world, particularly those in South-east Asia. This is because these activities threaten both the survival of the Lao nation and security of various countries in this region.

Poison Use Condemned

BK120623 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] On 12 December the Vietnamese enemy poisoned some food which killed two police agents who had been forced to serve the Vietnamese enemy in Sangkum Thmei District, Preah Vihear Province. This is a crime committed by the Vietnamese enemy aggressors against our Kampuchean people. In order to achieve their goal of exterminating our Kampuchean people, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors have used all means to kill our people in a savage and fascist manner.

Apart from killing our people by using guns and cannons as well as famine, the Vietnamese enemy has used poison to savagely kill ordinary people and Khmer employees who have been forced to serve them. This has angered our people and all Khmer employees who have been forced to serve Vietnamese. Our people and Khmer employees have united to struggle against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors with all their means to defend their own lives and to fight for the survival of our Kampuchean nation and race.

VODK Statement

BK291126 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Jan 84

["Station Statement To Condemn the Le Duan Vietnamese Enemy Aggressors' Criminal Acts of Increased Use of Toxic Chemical Weapons To Exterminate the Kampuchean People"]

[Text] Because of the impasse and decline in which they find themselves on the battlefield of aggression in Kampuchea and their lack of fighting force to oppose the Democratic Kampuchean National Army and guerrillas and the Kampuchean people who have been fighting against them and bogging them down, the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors have intensified the use of toxic chemical weapons to cruelly and barbarously exterminate the Kampuchean people everywhere since the beginning of 1984.

The Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators have taken the opportunity, while the water is receding and drying up, to spray poison into the remaining water sources such as the reservoirs, puddles, streams, and lakes that are used daily by the Kampuchean people and during the harvest period.

For example, in Santuk District, Kompong Thom Province, early in this dry season, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors sprayed poison in big and small rivers, streams reservoirs, and lakes, killing many of our people. Animals and fish also died. In Chikreng District, Siem Reap Province, on 22 December, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors put poison in reservoirs and rivers. Our peasants, who were harvesting rice nearby, drank that water; two of them died and many others were seriously or mildly affected. On 10 December again in Chikreng District, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors sprayed poison at (Mkak) dam killing one person. On 25 December, in Siem Reap District, Siem Reap Province, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors put poison in streams killing one person. Many others were mildly affected. On 10 December, in Chamka Leu District, Kompong Cham Province, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors scattered poison in (Veay) village, (Speu) commune, killing five people.

At other places, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors also sprayed and scattered poison into water sources and in our people villages which killed many people. This criminal act of the indiscriminate extermination of Kampuchean people through the systematic use of toxic chemical weapons everywhere clearly shows the increasing impasse the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors find themselves in on the battlefield of aggression in Kampuchea. They are increasing the use of these toxic chemical weapons to replace and assist their depleted forces.

The Vietnamese soldiers' morale is low. These soliders are very afraid and have no hope of winning against the Kampuchean people and the Democratic Kampuchean National Army and guerrillas on the military battlefield where the Vietnamese are sliding toward final defeat. The great crime of using toxic chemical weapons to indiscriminately exterminate the Kampuchean people of all ages and sexes is the implementation of the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors' policy to exterminate the Kampuchean race so that Vietnam can swallow Kampuchean territory and make it its own.

Through this policy of race extermination to annex Kampuchean territory, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors are using every means, from ordinary weapons, famine, and starvation to toxic chemical weapons to exterminate the Kampuchean people without any consideration of international law or world opinion. Furthermore, the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors are using these chemical weapons -- received from their Soviet masters -- on the battlefield or aggression in Kampuchea to test world opinion for the Soviet-Vietnamese expansionists and aggressors. If they can do whatever they like in Kampuchea, Laos, and Afghanistan and if the world dares not do anything to them, then they will certainly extend the use of these chemical weapons to other areas throughout the world.

The CGDK, the Kampuchean people, and our Democratic Kampuchean station have, many times in the past, exposed and condemned the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors' crime of the savage extermination of the Kampuchean people through the use of these toxic chemical weapons. Our station, once again firmly raises its voice with extreme anger to condemn this great, cruel, savage, and most coward crime of the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors and appeals to all peace- and justice-loving countries the world over -- in particular the United Nations -- to raise their voices in more vigorously exposing and condemning the great crimes of the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors and take every effective measure to timely check that the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their Soviet masters do not use toxic chemical weapons to criminally and savagely exterminate the Kampuchean race.

The best and most effective way is for all peace- and justice-loving forces the world over to unite in pressuring the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors through every means and to force them to immediately and unconditionally withdraw all their aggressor troops from Kampuchea in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolutions and let the Kampuchean people decide their own destiny themselves without outside interference.

Chemical Launchers Seized

BK101240 Hong Kong AFP in English 0906 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 10 (AFP) -- Nationalist resistance forces seized two chemical weapon launchers during an attack on a Vietnamese position in western Kampuchea Sunday, a resistance leader said today. Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) Chief of Staff Hing Kunthou told reporters at the Thai-Kampuchean border that two rifle launchers were taken during a 65-man raid on Krontri, a Vietnamese position about 12 km (7 miles) east of the border refugee camp Nong Samet. Ten Vietnamese soldiers were killed, one resistance fighter died and three resistance troops were wounded, he said.

Krontri is the headquarters of the Vietnamese 9th Regiment, comprising 800 of the total 150,000-170,000 troops Hanoi maintains in Kampuchea. No further details or independent confirmation was immediately available on the seizure of the chemical weapons launchers, although a Thai military source in Bangkok said that the attack was possible. The resistance has accused Hanoi increasingly in the past several weeks of using toxic substances.

The Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge also said today in a broadcast from their clandestine radio, monitored here, that a Kampuchean civilian died December 19 after Vietnamese soldiers poisoned salt sold in a village in Chikreng District, Siem Reap Province. The use of chemicals or toxic substances in the fighting in Kampuchea has not been confirmed.

'PASASON' CARRIES BIOGRAPHY OF LATE SOUVANNA PHOUMA

BK121324 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Vientiane, January 12 (OANA-KPL) -- The organ of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party CC PASASON today published the biography of late Souvanna Phouma, adviser of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic who passed away on January 10 due to old age. The biography writes that Souvanna Phouma was born on October 7th, 1901 in Luang Prabang a son of Chao Bounkhong and Chao Thongsai. Having completed his primary school in Laos, Souvanna Phouma continued his secondary school at Albert Sro high school in Hanoi and went on to Paris and Grenoble for university studies. He was graduated as civil and electrical engineer, the paper added.

Being motivated by high sense of patriotism, the paper noted, Souvanna Phouma came back home after completing his studies in view to contribute to the development of his fatherland at the time, being under the French colonial rule.

From 1950 to 1956, he had held the posts as prime-minister, vice prime-minister and minister in the administration of the Kingdom of Laos. The paper further stressed that while serving as a high ranking official, Souvanna Phouma did his utmost in the activities to liberate his fatherland from the foreign rules and for the national concord.

After the agreement of Geneva, from 1954 to 1956, the paper wrote, Souvanna Phouma was appointed vice-prime minister and still being motivated by patriotism and work for democracy and national concord, he was among those who was struggling against the ultra reactionary group within the Katai government. This caused him to lose his post in the government and was subsequently sent to France and other countries as diplomat, the paper pointed out. From 1960 to 1974, Souvanna Phouma was respectively appointed prime minister of the government of the Kingdom of Laos and the government of coalition, the paper further stressed.

The paper noted that thanks to the appropriate policy of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and having acknowledged his great contribution to the struggle for the national concord, Souvanna Phouma as a senior politician and a senior personality, was appointed advisor of the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic by the nation-wide congress of representatives held here on December 2, 1975.

Despite of his advanced age and declining health, Souvanna Phouma, in the accomplishment of his noble tasks, had greatly contributed to the national defence and construction, as well as in the improvement of the understanding and solidarity within Laos and abroad, the paper said.

At the end of 1983, the paper stressed, as the health of Souvanna Phouma progressively deteriorated, the party and government has done their utmost to treat him both in the country and abroad. Despite great attention given to him by medical doctors and care from his own relatives, Souvanna Phouma passed away at 4.10 a.m. on January 10, 1984 at his residence in Vientiane capital.

The paper finally added that with the passing away of Souvanna Phouma, the Lao people has lost a great patriot, a senior politician, an experienced technician and a beloved son of the nation, the party. The government and the entire Lao people will always in their memory acknowledge the great achievements of Souvanna Phouma during all his life, the paper pointed out.

DEBATE OVER F-16 FIGHTER PURCHASE REVIEWED

BK130200 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 13 Jan 84 pp 1, 2

["By THE NATION Political Desk"]

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok last week sent a cable to Washington supporting the Royal Thai Air Force's [RTAF] Dec 27 formal request to buy 16 F-16A sophisticated interceptors with the option to purchase four more in the future at a total cost of about U.S. \$500 million, THE NATION learned yesterday.

The RTAF's request, signed by Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Praphan Thupatemi, which reached the U.S. Embassy here on Dec 27 sought a Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) from the U.S. Government. The document, if granted by Washington, is virtually an agreement to sell. The Thai request suggested that delivery begin in 18 months after the contract is signed.

Asked about the report that the U.S. Embassy here, after considering the RTAF's request, had sent a cable supporting the Thai move, American Embassy spokesman Larry Thomas said he could not confirm or deny the story. "All I can say is that the request is under active consideration of the U.S. Administration. I want to stress that the matter is being considered most carefully at all levels. We consider it an important request," the U.S. Embassy spokesman said.

Informed sources said that in the RTAF's note, it was made plain that Thailand would like to buy the modern F-16/100 type and not the F-16/J79 which is less sophisticated. The Thai request is to buy 12 F-16As and four F-16Bs with the option to buy four more F-16As in the future. F-16A is a one-seater while F-16B is a two-seater that could be used for both training and combat action.

The RTAF is said to have set about 10,608 million baht (including its share of the U.S. Foreign Military Sales [FMS] granted to Thailand) for the purchase of the 16 F-16As, taking into account at least 10 percent escalation costs through the three years that the planes would be delivered if the U.S. Administration and Congress approve the deal.

The sources said that Thailand's request for the purchase of F-16A fighter jet, also known as "Fighting Falcon" produced by General Dynamics, would be tantamount to seeking an exception to the general rules on arms sales by the U.S. Congress which imposes firm restrictions on the sale of the sophisticated F-16A to other countries.

The Reagan administration will have to look into the controversial request realizing it is a tough issue to decide on since it has been a general rule that F-16A, fitted with the GE 100 type engine, is not for export, since it could compromise the United States' latest technology. At the same time, there is also the question of arms sales control policy which goes against selling such fighter aircraft to another country.

But informed sources said there have also been exceptions to the rule. The U.S. has sold the F-16/100 type of planes to some allies including Turkey (a member of NATO), Venezuela, Israel, Egypt and Pakistan (on the grounds that there is a Soviet threat through Afghanistan). But then, there also was the precedent that Indonesia's similar request to Washington about two years ago was never processed through the channels.

"Thailand, of course, has many good and valid reasons to cite to back up its request. For one thing, she is a frontline state facing possible threat from Vietnam on the eastern front although it has yet to be proved beyond doubts that the Vietnamese have actually deployed the Russian-made MIG-23 aircraft in Kampuchea," the sources said.

However, Thailand could also cite the oft-repeated policy statement by the Reagan administration to help her allies to modernize their armed forces to become self-reliant against communist threats. And Thailand has good reasons to believe that the purchase of a squadron of F-16/100s would help tremendously in that respect.

The sources explained that it would be easy for Washington to arrive at a "no" decision on the Thai request since there was precedent to support that. "But then, there was also precedent for a 'yes' decision as well," the sources pointed out.

It would eventually boil down to how Washington views the Thai request in her global arms export strategy and the broader arms sales policy.

If the Reagan administration should decide in favour of the RTAF's request, it would draw up the letter of offer and acceptance (LOA) and the State Department would then notify Congress which has 30 days to veto the sale. If Congress raises no objection within the 30-day period, the deal would go through. "If Congress says no, then it's off," the sources explained. The sources said that the RTAF had informed American officials that despite the high costs involved, sufficient fund could be located, from both the U.S. FMS allocation and the government budget over the next few years.

The sources said that Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek is expected to make a private visit to the United States in the near future. He is expected to speak strongly to support the RTAF's request for the "fighting falcon."

When Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila was in Washington recently, he raised the issue with senior members of the Reagan administration. He got no promise although the minister reportedly received a "good hearing" in Washington where he managed to put forward a good case. "The Thai minister was told that the Thai request would be considered," the sources said.

The sources concluded: "It's not an easy decision for Washington to make, especially since Thailand is such a good friend of America. Here, Thailand is making a request to be exempted from the general rules."

KRIANGSAK DISCUSSES PLANNED VISIT TO VIETNAM

BK130139 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Jan 84 p 5

[Text] General Kriangsak Chamanan, who is leading a House Foreign Affairs team on a visit next week to Vietnam, said yesterday he would not undertake a negotiating role but would listen to the Vietnamese view on Kampuchea.

The former prime minister said after a Foreign Ministry briefing the 20-member team was visiting Vietnam at Hanoi's invitation and would not involve itself with governmental matters. "Today's meeting was for consultations so the committee's trip would not conflict with the policy of our government," said the National Democracy Party leader.

Gen Kriangsak has made his views known that current Thai policy toward Vietnam over Kampuchea would not lead to a solution to the conflict and he advocates a softer approach.

"I think both sides want to negotiate the problem but it's a question of sincerity. The Foreign Ministry would like to know what the Vietnamese really think about the Kampuchean problem and from the committee's visit we will gather information which the government could later use. At present we are only getting information from one side," he said. The team leaves for Hanoi next Wednesday 18 and returns on January 25. It will visit Ho Chi Minh City but not Kampuchea.

During the visit, Gen Kriangsak will meet Vietnamese Communist Party leader Le Duan, Premier Pham Van Dong, senior Politburo member Le Duc Tho and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach. He said the committee had four aims: to help create a better mutual atmosphere, gain an impression of a neighbouring country, visit detained Thai fishermen and talk to Vietnamese leaders to gain their perception and thinking of how to reach an agreement over Kampuchea.

He would not try to secure the fishermen's release "because we are not going to interfere with a government role. We will just visit the fishermen to see how they are."

LAOTIAN GROUP AGREES TO EXPANDED TRADE

BK120108 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Thailand and Laos have agreed in principle to expand trade relations and to explore means to foster bilateral ties at the end of a one-day conference at the Foreign Ministry yesterday.

Interior Minister Sitthi Chirarot, who headed the Thai delegation, said the Laotian side also agreed to consider his plea for repatriation of 400 Laotian refugees at a holding centre in Nakhon Phnom who have expressed their desire to return home. Previously, the Laotian Government refused to take back these refugees, claiming that some of them may harbour ill intent against Laos.

Gen Sitthi said the talks were held under a friendly atmosphere. "We didn't have any problems between us in the past year, except some minor ones which could be resolved by official-level committees," he said. The two sides also discussed how to foster bilateral relations, said Gen Sitthi. Both parties, he said, reiterated their pledges to make Mekong a river of peace as embodied in a joint communique signed several years ago by former Prime Minister Kriangsak Chamanan and Laotian Premier Kaysone Phomvihane.

Though the Laotians did not ask for the opening of more border crossings this time, the minister said the two countries agreed in principle to step up trading across the border. Thai merchants have said they would like to buy timber from Laos, which is not possible now because of certain regulations. Laos has repeatedly called on the Thai Government to ease restrictions on the export or transit to Laos of certain commodities -- particularly those classified as strategic goods.

Gen Sitthi said his Laotian counterpart, Gen Sisavat Keobounphan, told him that there had been no conflicts between the two countries since Thailand reopened the border crossings -- two in Nong Khai Province and one in Mukdahan Province. Gen Sisavat also told Gen Sitthi that Laos had successfully curbed opium crop cultivation and narcotics trafficking. However, no mention was made about Gen Sisavat's adopted daughter, Kamkeo, who escaped to Nong Khai late last month and who is now being remanded at a holding centre in Nakhon Phanom.

As a gesture of good neighbourly relations, Gen Sitthi said the Laotian Government on Wednesday set free five Thais who were captured in Laos.

Laotian Interior Minister Sisavat will today call on Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon and later on have an audience with His Majesty the King in Chiang Mai.

He will return to Vientiane on Sunday.

ARMY MONITORS BURMESE DRIVE AGAINST REBELS

BK110306 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Rangoon's drive against rebel groups and inter-faction fighting in Burma were being closely monitored by Thai Forces, the Border Patrol Police Zone 3 commander said yesterday.

Maj-Gen Chup Sa-nguansat said the Burmese Government had launched a massive suppression campaign against minority rebels, especially in areas opposite Mae Hong Son province where clashes had sparked a civilian exodus into Thailand. The commander said his forces would follow government policy and repel those who spilled over.

Conflict between Khun Sa's Shan United Army and Muser Tribesmen was causing concern among Thai authorities, he said. Shan fighters had overrun the Musers at Doi Lang, he said.

Gen Chup said Khun Sa had repeatedly sent messages to Thai leaders claiming his faction had stopped trading drugs and would not cross the border in pursuit of their fight for independence. "We have informed Khun Sa that Thailand would never allow any foreign armed men to remain on our soil and we would take drastic action against them if they are found in our country," Gen Chup said.

BRIEFS

PARLIAMENT OFFICIAL'S RESIGNATION -- Secretary-General of Parliament Maj-Gen Kawi Suthat na Ayutthaya has resigned his post and the resignation became effective on Sunday, according to a report from Parliament this morning. Gen Kawi cited his bad health as the reason for his resignation. It was reported that he had been suffering from a heart ailment for long time. Gen Kawi was appointed secretary-general of Parliament on May 6, 1981. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 3 Jan 84 p 1 BK]

1983 RICE EXPORTS -- Thailand last year exported a total of 3.7 million tons of rice, which was a record level, Commerce Minister Koson Krairoek said. The high exports were achieved partly through reduction of export premiums and tax whose rates will remain unchanged until the end of June, this year, he said. [Excerpt] [Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 4 Jan 84 p 17 BK]

RICE SALES TO IRAQ -- Eight leading Thai rice exporters have recently concluded total sales of 128,000 tons of rice worth about 1,200 million baht to the Iraqi Government's Grain Board, one of the exporters told the BUSINESS POST yesterday. The deal will be financed by commercial banks in the Middle East. The cereal will be for shipment during the first four months of this year at slightly over 30,000 tons each month. The deal includes 90,000 tons of second class 100 percent grade white rice and 38,000 tons of 100 percent grade fragrant rice. [Excerpt] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Jan 84 p 15 BK]

NHAN DAN DETAILS USSR SCIENCE, TECH COOPERATION

BK081500 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 4 Nov 83 p 3

[Article by Deng Huu, chairman of the State Science and Technology Commission: "The Soviet Union's Wholehearted Cooperation and Assistance in Vietnam's Scientific and Technological Revolution"]

[Text] After the total liberation of the south that allowed for the entire country to advance toward socialism, and especially since our country and the Soviet Union signed the treaty of friendship and cooperation, scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries has vigorously developed in an unprecedented manner. It can be said that this was the beginning of the second phase -- that of all-round cooperation in natural and technological sciences between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. The salient point of this phase is that we have bypassed the period of cooperation in small projects and the two countries have worked out long-term scientific programs and subjects requiring several years of joint research efforts. This is a qualitative change in Vietnamese-Soviet scientific and technological cooperation.

In the 1981-85 plan, the Vietnam Institute of Science and the Vietnam Social Science Committee have reached an agreement with the USSR Academy of Science on a program of cooperation involving 27 issues and 73 subjects of scientific research. Many scientific and practical subjects related to capital construction are being worked on by scientists of both countries such as the following: conducting an investigation to compile a botanical encyclopedia for Vietnam; conducting an investigation on the forest ecology and fauna of the Central Highlands; studying fundamental geological issues and biomineral laws in Vietnam; surveying natural maritime resources; and so forth.

With Soviet assistance various branches of modern sciences are being given attention in our country. With Soviet technological aid, we are restoring and expanding the nuclear research center in Dalat for scientific research purposes. Upon completion of this project, with the reactor being put into operation, our scientific cadres will have conditions for conducting health, biological, agricultural, and other research activities in support of economic development in Vietnam.

One of the successes typical of Vietnamese-Soviet scientific and technological cooperation was the joint spaceflight manned by Hero Cosmonauts V.V. Garbatko and Pham Tuan on 24 July 1980. A great deal of scientific data was collected during and after this flight. In May 1982, a conference to review the scientific program of the flight successfully concluded in Hanoi with 26 scientific reports being presented by scientists from the Soviet Union, the GDR, Bulgaria, and Vietnam to the three subcommittees: the subcommittee for investigation of each resources from space, the space biology subcommittee, and the space physics subcommittee. All the reports noted that studying the application of distant exploration techniques is a highly effective tool for surveying mineral resources and for investigating lands, waters, and forests for the purpose of economic development.

The program for bilateral scientific and technological cooperation in 1981-85 has been approved and reviewed by the Vietnamese-Soviet Subcommittees for Scientific and Technological Cooperation. This program, which was formulated at the request of the various ministries, sectors, organs, and localities on the Vietnamese side, encompasses 87 important topics belonging to 22 areas of the national economy such as agriculture, heavy industry, consumer goods, export goods, and so forth, of which more than 10 priority areas have been singled out by the two sides for concentrating all-out efforts of both countries to rapidly achieve economic results at an early date.

Thus, the second special feature of this phase is that cooperation has been effected comprehensively and broadly by the economic-technical sectors and, at the same time, key tasks requiring priority implementation have been determined.

We can cite the following typical activities:

Concerning Agriculture

Striving to achieve self-sufficiency in grain and set aside some surplus grain for export is a strategic task of our country. Therefore, rice is the most important subject of study in the cooperation program. The goal of cooperation is to select and cross-breed short-term rice strains that are highly resistant to harmful insects and diseases and give a high yield. It is necessary to combine the strong points of foreign rice strains with those of domestic ones. To achieve this objective, the Soviet Union and our country have set up two experimental stations in Vietnam -- one in Hanoi and the other in Ho Chi Minh City. The Soviet Union has sent equipment and specialists for joint research. More than 4,000 strains of crops, including more than 2,000 rice strains, have been brought into Vietnam and more than 20 strains of rice and some other crops selected for their adaptability to Vietnam's natural conditions are being planted at the experimental station in Hanoi.

The rice research program also involves efforts to study the use of a system of industrial machines to mechanize the production of wet rice -- from cultivation to harvesting and processing -- and, at the same time, to study combined measures for protecting rice and other crops against harmful insects and diseases.

Concerning Water Conservancy

Both sides will study water conservancy problems in support of agriculture such as building and transforming ricefield irrigation and drainage systems and utilizing and protecting water sources.

Concerning Energy

Our country's natural weather is stormy and the damage caused by lightning to power plants, power lines, and other projects is very serious. Therefore, attention is being paid to joint research on measures for protecting power lines and other power projects from lightning. At present the two sides are jointly building a lightning research station which will serve as a joint laboratory for specialists of both countries to conduct scientific research. On the Soviet side, tens of scientific organs will participate in this project.

Our country has many thermopower plants. However, due to a poor knowledge of the characteristics of fuel, the coefficient of coal usage is too low and it is easy for accidents to happen. Vietnamese and Soviet scientists have raised the subject of studying the mechanical and physical characteristics of the various types of coal available in Vietnam and establishing procedures and systems for coal burning at thermopower plants. This subject has great practical significance.

Our country's main source of energy at present is coal, but the techniques for coal exploitation are very complex and the percentage of coal wastage is too high. For thick and inclined coal seams, we can only get 50 percent of the coal, wasting all the rest. Studying methods for exploiting thick and inclined coal seams in underground mines and increasing the depth of open mines are two major subjects which Vietnamese and Soviet scientific organizations have agreed to study.

Concerning Metallurgy

Scientific organizations of the two countries have exchanged experiences and worked out plans to study the production of porous iron, the retrieval of titanium and zirconium from coastal mineral sediments, the processing of tin ore, the manufacturing of spare parts, and so forth.

Concerning Communications and Transport

There are diverse cooperation subjects such as studying methods for clearing baracles and scraping off rust, studying methods for transportation using "mother ships" and auxiliary ships, studying techniques for maintaining perishable commodities, studying measures for increasing transport capacity between Vietnamese and Soviet ports, and so forth.

Concerning Light Industry

Research activities designed to improve the quality and efficiency of the textile, dying, and tailoring sectors have great significance toward stepping up production. Efforts are now being made to step up research efforts aimed at determining the sources of raw material and techniques for the production of paper.

Active research is also being conducted on the processing of green and black tea, pineapples, and bananas, and on the maintenance of vegetables and fruits of the food industry.

Concerning Public Health

The two countries have paid appropriate attention to studying and processing pharmaceutical materials and studying measures to control malaria, bubonic plague, trachoma, bronchitis, paralysis, and so forth and good results have been made in this regard. Furthermore, our country's tropical climate has given rise to various major subjects of scientific and technological cooperation, of which the research on ways to control the corrosion of metals and the tropicalization of equipment and their components and so forth is of great significance.

Cooperation is being intensified in the meteorological, hydrological, and topographical fields. A program for studying tropical storms and flash floods has been signed between the Vietnamese and Soviet Governments; and a joint Vietnamese-Soviet scientific research and experimental station has been built and installed with equipment sent from the Soviet Union, including a computer to deal with the numerous statistics. At that station, Vietnamese and Soviet scientists are working side by side to study the tropical climate and storms; study the conditions for the emergence of storms, their progress, development, and passage; and devise methods for forecasting storms and for transmitting and receiving storm-related reports to practically serve the agricultural, maritime transport, air transport, petroleum and natural gas, and other sectors.

With the building of a storm forecasting research and experimental station, a lightning research station, two rice experimental stations, and so forth, we can clearly see marked progression cooperation. If low-level cooperation involves chiefly exchanges of scientific documents and specialists and the improvement of the knowledge of scientific and technological cadres, the establishment of joint laboratories and research facilities is an effective form of cooperation typical of a period of high-level cooperation. These joint laboratories mark the maturity of our country's science and technology, and at the same time, they serve as a milestone of Vietnamese-Soviet scientific and technological cooperation.

Information is one of the factors deciding the development of science and technology. Cooperation in this field is becoming closer and closer with each passing day. The Soviet Union has been helping us set up a scientific and technological information network and firmly grasp information methods and operations.

In this period of cooperation at a higher level, various diverse forms of cooperation have been effected, but the training of scientific and technological cadres and the exchanges of documents and samples still play an important role. Every year the Soviet Union receives on the average 500-700 scientific cadres from our country to get hands-on experience in specific research subjects that can be applied in production and sends hundreds of Soviet scientists and technicians to Vietnam to help us.

Every year scientific and technological organizations of Vietnam receive valuable technical documents from the Soviet Union, such as design blueprints, technological charts, and technical processes, specifications, criteria, and norms, as well as news bulletins, reports on new inventions, and samples such as equipment, crop seed and livestock breeds, strains of microorganisms, seeds of medicinal herbs, and so forth.

With our management, it is important to improve the level of economic management. The Soviet Union has opened new possibilities for us in this regard through scientific and technological cooperation. Since 1979, the USSR National Economic Academy, the Academy of Social Sciences directly subordinate to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Academy of Science, and many Soviet schools and institutes have sent noted professors and specialists to Vietnam to teach economic management classes for Vietnamese cadres. To date thousands of mid- and high-level cadres have been trained in the basic theories and experiences concerning economic management. The training of economic management cadres has been greatly intensified following the signing by the two governments of an agreement on this matter on 24 January 1982. Under this agreement, thousands of our economic management cadres will receive additional training in the Soviet Union. On this issue, Premier Pham Van Dong said: "The training of Vietnam's leading economic cadres in economic management with Soviet professors and specialists participating in teaching will actively and effectively contribute to overcoming the current shortcomings encountered by Vietnam in economic management."

Recently, special attention has been given to the effectiveness of scientific and technological cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. The questions that are being raised consist of how to make that cooperation have a positive impact on the development of our country's national economy; how to enable that cooperation to contribute to enhancing our country's scientific and technological potentials so that we will be capable of resolving scientific and technological problems that may arise in the course of the scientific and technological revolution in our country; and how to make this cooperation successfully develop the scientific and technological potentials of other countries while helping us solve scientific and technological issues in support of production and national defense. To improve the effectiveness of bilateral cooperation in the scientific and technological field we must, in the coming period, direct cooperation activities to serve three purposes: Meeting the objectives of economic cooperation, supporting the implementation of key state scientific and technological projects, and resolving issues of mutual interest. The definition of priority areas most important to our country's economy such as agriculture, food industry, microbiology, energy, metallurgy, coal exploitation, communications and transport, metal erosion and tropicalization, and so forth will also make a positive contribution to enhancing the effectiveness of cooperation.

Our party's line of all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union has been clearly manifested in the scientific and technological field. The Soviet Union's cooperation with and disinterested assistance to Vietnam are sincere and they are only possible between brothers who are of the same class and share the same ideals.

HUYNH TAN PHAT MESSAGE ON DEATH OF SOUVANNA PHOUMA

BK121725 Hanoi VNA in English 1556 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 12 -- Huynh Tan Phat, president of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee, has sent a message of condolences to Souphanouvong, chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction Central Committee, on the passing away of Lao Government advisor Souvanna Phouma. The message describes Souvanna Phouma "a patriotic personality and a political activist who had actively contributed to the cause of national reconciliation of the Lao people." He had also actively contributed to the strengthening of the solidarity and friendship between the fraternal peoples of Vietnam and Laos, the message added.

ARMY PAPER REFUTES THAI STATEMENT ON KAMPUCHEA

BK121221 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Unattributed article in today's QUAN DOI NHAN DAN: "Those Who Are Trying To Cling to Their Illusion"]

[Text] The Thai Foreign Ministry's 6 January statement on the Kampuchean situation smacks of hostility toward Vietnam. They have repeated their shopworn, distorted, and slanderous allegations which are based on ridiculous reasoning: Because of its setbacks in Kampuchea, Vietnam has turned to the colonialization of Kampuchea and has resorted to using chemical weapons and toxic chemicals against the Kampuchean resistance forces -- referring to the Khmer reactionaries of all colors.

Along with these allegations, the Bangkok psychological mouthpiece has over the past few weeks barked about the alleged Vietnamese preparations for a dry-season offensive at the Kampuchean-Thai border. Accompanying this chorus was a muscle-flexing statement that Thailand is prepared to cope with any aggression against Thai territory by the Vietnamese Army and that all refugee camps -- which are, in fact, military encampments of the Khmer reactionaries along the border -- are prepared to move far deeper into Thai territory as a measure to prevent the dry-season Vietnamese offensive, and so forth.

Beijing and Bangkok have also tried to paint a fake picture of the alleged victories scored by the Khmer reactionaries of all stripes and of the so-called activities of the Democratic Kampuchea Coalition Cabinet, making it look as if these reactionaries have a remarkable number of people and land under their control and a strength to be reckoned with.

Beijing, Bangkok, and other forces hostile to the Indochinese countries are very displeased with the fact that the Kampuchean people and progressive people around the world are joyfully celebrating the 5th anniversary of the Kampuchean revolution's victory over the genocidal Pol Pot regime. This event clearly demonstrates the miraculous rebirth and the steady development of the Kampuchean nation.

They are attempting to warm up the Kampuchean issue in the hope of reassembling their forces -- which are disintegrating -- against Vietnam and other Indochinese countries. They are also planning to deceive the world once again so as to rescue the Khmer reactionaries of the so-called tripartite coalition, which is beset with differences, and disintegrating, crippled, isolated, and alienated from the people at large. Even a number of well-informed statesmen in the ASEAN bloc have realized that supporting the Pol Pot army remnants or backing the tripartite coalition led by Sihanouk amounts to committing a crime against the Kampuchean people and that such an action will certainly be doomed to total failure.

The fact that the Thai Foreign Ministry tried to be helpful when it issued an official, distorted, and slanderous statement against Vietnam shows that they are still adamantly pursuing their outmoded policy of chiming in with the machinations of the Chinese expansionists-hegemonists against Vietnam and other Indochinese countries. The prompt and full report by Beijing's XINHUA on Bangkok's ridiculous, distorted, and slanderous statement is an all too blatant chiming in farce. But the undeniable truth has dismissed all of their shameful, distorted, and slanderous allegations. The Kampuchean situation after 5 years of revitalization has become more stable than ever. With every passing day the posture and strength of the Kampuchean revolution have been steadily consolidated and strongly developed in all respects. This is why Beijing, Bangkok, and their camp have become frightened in the face of the total bankruptcy of their dark designs.

The Bangkok statement that slanders Vietnam and distorts the Kampuchean situation is nothing but an abrasive outcry of those who have become desperate because their ignominious and sordid schemes are about to go up in smoke.

The so-called statement of the Thai Foreign Ministry on Kampuchea only serves to expose their collusion with the Beijing expansionists and U.S. imperialists against the Indochinese countries in sabotaging peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

By continuing to pursue this outmoded reactionary policy, Bangkok has caused Thailand to become unstable and brought on the danger of creating conditions for Beijing to interfere deeper and deeper of into Thailand's internal affairs. This is because Thailand is allowing the Pol Pot army remnants and other Khmer bandit groups, now in hiding on Thai soil, to carry out activities aimed at opposing and sabotaging Kampuchea.

Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos have always upheld the policy of peace, friendship, and cooperation with their neighboring countries, advocating a policy of dialogue between the two groupings of ASEAN and Indochinese countries on the basis of equality, mutual respect, nonimposition of one side's opinion on the other, and promoting the view of building Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation. This is the correct view and conforms to the interests of the peoples of Indochina and ASEAN countries as well as to the aspirations of the people the world over. It is regrettable that Thailand, due to its erroneous calculations, has created obstacles to the growing trend toward dialogue in the region through its slanders and distortions against countries. But, by running counter to the trend of history, they will eventually be doomed to failure.

LEADERS ATTEND RECEPTION ON CUBAN ANNIVERSARY

BK121719 Hanoi VNA in English 1600 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 12 -- Salvador Capote, Cuban charge d'affaires a.i. gave a reception here this evening in honour of the 25th anniversary of the Republic of Cuba. His guests included Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers; To Huu, Political Bureau member of the C.P.V. C.C. vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Pham Hung, Political Bureau member of the C.P.V. C.C., vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Nguyen Co Thach, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.P.V. C.C., foreign minister; Vu Quang, member of the C.P.V. C.C., and head of its International Department; Nguyen Thi Dinh, member of the C.P.V. C.C., president of the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association; Lieutenant-General Tran Van Quang, vice-minister of national defence, and other senior officials. Members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations in Vietnam also attended.

Speaking at the reception, Salvador Capote reviewed the great achievements of the Cuban people in building and defending the country in spite of the blockade and threats of aggression by the U.S. imperialists. He said: "Like the Cuban people who live and grow only 90 miles away from a powerful and rich country which has always threatened to invade them, Vietnam has been facing threats and acts of aggression of the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists. The Vietnamese revolution like the Cuban revolution is firmer than ever before. The Cuban people firmly support the just cause of the Vietnamese people as well as of the Lao and Kampuchean peoples."

In his speech, Vice-Chairman To Huu warmly hailed the glorious achievements recorded by the fraternal Cuban people over the past 25 years. He said that the Cuban people under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Comrade Fidel Castro had overcome many trials and difficulties, foiled all the schemes and acts of sabotage by the U.S. imperialists while discharging their noble internationalist duty towards [word indistinct] peoples.

To Huu expressed the Vietnamese people's gratitude for the warm friendship, strong support and wholehearted assistance of the Cuban party, government, and people. He reaffirmed Vietnam's consistent stand of supporting the heroic Cuban people in their struggle against the U.S. imperialists and supporting the revolution of the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran peoples.

ENVOY HOSTS FILM SHOW ON ALBANIAN NATIONAL DAY

OW112327 Hanoi VNA in English 1539 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 11 -- Albanian Ambassador Syrja Laze gave a film show here tonight on the 38th anniversary of the Albanian People's Republic, now the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. His Vietnamese guests included Te Van Lau, vice-minister for foreign affairs; Phan Dinh Vinh, deputy head of the Communist Party Central Committee's International Department; and Hoang Nhat Tan, vice-minister of foreign trade.

LE DUAN CONGRATULATES FRG COMMUNIST LEADER

OW120043 Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 11 -- Le Duan, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, today sent his warmest congratulations to Herbert Mies on his re-election as chairman of the German Communist Party (D.K.P.).

The congratulatory message wishes the best of health to Herbert Mies and constant development of the solidarity and friendship between the communist parties and the peoples of Vietnam and the Federal Republic of Germany.

SRV, ANGOLA SIGN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION PACT

OW080744 Hanoi VNA in English 0722 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 8 -- A delegation of the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture led by Vice Minister Tran Khai visited Angola from Dec 26 to Jan 2, 1984 at the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of Angola. The delegation was warmly received by C.D. Kimbi, member of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] Party of Labour Central Committee, minister of agriculture; A. Petrov, secretary of the MPLA-Party of Labour Central Committee in charge of production; and I. Nascimento, member of the MPLA-Party of Labour Central Committee, minister of planning. In their talks, the two sides discussed measures to promote the cooperation between the two countries in various fields, mainly in agriculture.

The delegation visited rice-growing areas and agricultural facilities. Vice Minister Tran Khai gave a talk on agricultural development in Vietnam to Angolan agricultural cadres and scientists. The two sides signed an agreement on agricultural cooperation between the two countries for 1984-87.

HANOI EXCEEDS 1983 SOCIOECONOMIC PLANS

OW102120 Hanoi VNA in English 1526 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 10 -- The capital city of Hanoi last year recorded considerable achievements in carrying out its socioeconomic plan in spite of numerous energy, material and weather problems. Industrial production including the four important industries namely food-processing, metal engineering, textile-tailoring and chemicals-rubber goods, rose by 6.7 per cent over 1982.

Hanoi has added many more items to its production lines such as textile, knitware, canvas shoes, gloves, electric fans, etc., put into mass production 36 new items and commissioned a number of new factories including a serum and a sewing needle factories.

Agricultural production has also made satisfactory and all-round progress. Food output in the whole year reached almost 390,000 tons, a 0.6 - percent increase over 1982. The productivity of paddy rice was more than 5.5 tons per hectare, and of maize, 1.7 tons per hectare. The suburban peasants contributed nearly 70,000 tons to the state food reserves 25 per cent more than the previous year. Increase was also recorded in the production of industrial crops such as tobacco, jute, medicinal plants and castor-oil seeds. The pig herd increased by 7.3 percent, and the cow herd by 28 per cent.

In capital construction, Hanoi broadened several main arteries leading out of the inner city completed 50,000 square metres of housing space, built or repaired a number of irrigation cultural and social projects in accordance with the guideline "the state and people join efforts in construction." Last year, jobs were provided for about 24,000 city dwellers.

At its recent session, the municipal People's Council decided that this year Hanoi will boost rice productivity in the whole year to 6.5 tons per hectare and eventually to seven tons in 1985 which would raise food output by then to 450,000 tons in terms of paddy equivalent.

Hanoi has embarked on re-zoning market gardening in the suburbs to ensure 90,000 tons of assorted vegetables for the city dwellers, and will continue to increase the production of industrial or export crops especially tobacco, peanut, garlic and onion, as well as the number of pigs and poultry.

This year, Hanoi will build 100,000 more square metres of housing space, improve the electricity and water supply systems and expand a number of public cultural, medical and educational facilities.

AUSTRALIA'AUSTRALIAN' SAYS GLOMAR JAVA SEA 'BLOWN UP'

BK120059 Hong Kong AFP in English 0908 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Sydney, Australia, Jan 11 (AFP) -- A U.S. drilling ship lost in the Gulf of Tonkin last October was apparently "blown up" by Vietnam or the Soviet Union in an oil dispute between Beijing and Hanoi, THE AUSTRALIAN newspaper reported today. The newspaper said there was overwhelming evidence that the drill ship Glomar Java Sea, operating under a U.S.-China contract just northeast of Da Nang, did not sink because of a passing storm but was "blown up."

"Divers exploring the wreck in 100 m (328 ft) of water just 500m (1,640 ft) from the well site have found a hole in the hull 2 m (6 ft) in diameter, caused by an external explosion," it said. Noting that the ship sank in waters claimed by both China and Vietnam, the paper said: "It now seems certain that a military sabotage mission, mounted by Vietnam or its Soviet mentor, took advantage of a storm to line up the flagship of China-U.S. oil exploration and sink her."

About 80 people were killed when the Glomar Java Sea went down during tropical storm Lex. It was the second driller lost in Chinese waters and the third costliest in the world in terms of human lives. Opposition foreign affairs spokesman Garry Looke said in Canberra that the Australian Government should examine the newspaper's allegations before proceeding with its invitation for a visit by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach. Mr Thach is due in Australia for a five-day visit on March 14.

EIGHTH ASEAN-AUSTRALIA FORUM TO BE HELD 18-19 JAN

BK111125 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The minister for foreign affairs, Mr Hayden, has announced that the eighth ASEAN-Australia forum will be held in Canberra next Wednesday and Thursday. Announcing preliminary plans for the meeting, Mr Hayden welcomed the decision of the ASEAN foreign ministers that the forum should be held as soon as practicable. The minister said it was an indication that the ASEAN and Australia had a frank and productive relationship which would be enhanced by the forum. The ASEAN-Australia forum is the annual consultative meeting with senior officials and the formal apparatus through which projects under the ASEAN-Australia economic cooperation program are submitted and discussed.

HAYDEN ON CONTACTS WITH USSR; NAMES NEW ENVOY

BK120629 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0430 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr Hayden, has said that in future Australia's relationship with the Soviet Union will be conducted on what he called the more mutually productive basis. Mr Hayden said trade relations with the Soviet Union would be mobilized and measures were being taken to resume bilateral, cultural, academic, sporting, and scientific activities between the two nations.

Mr Hayden said that in the present climate of international tension, the government placed importance on maintaining and developing official contacts with the Soviet Union on matters of regional and global concern. Mr Hayden was speaking in Canberra after the announcement of the appointment of Australia's new ambassador to the Soviet Union and Mongolia, Mr Edward Pocock. Mr Pocock has been Australia's ambassador to the Republic of Korea since 1980.

NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER ON DEATH SQUADS

BK111423 Hong Kong AFP in English 0815 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 11 (AFP) -- Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van den Broek said today that he was confident the Indonesian Government could put an stop to the wave of assassinations of suspected criminals in Indonesia. Mr Van den Broek told reporters at Halim Airport prior to leaving after a week-long visit to the former Dutch colony that the issue involved the "universal principle of maintaining human rights." He said he regretted if his raising the matter was seen as an interference in Indonesia's internal affairs.

Unidentified death squads have killed an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 suspected criminals since April in what is widely believed to be anti-crime crackdown by the military.

Asked if he was satisfied with the government's explanation that gang warfare was responsible for the killings, Mr van den Broek said only: "I hold the confidence that the Indonesian Government and the Indonesian people will be capable of dealing with these problems."

After meeting with the Dutch minister Friday, Armed Forces Commander General Benni Murdani told reporters that he considered Mr van den Broek to be meddling in Indonesia's internal affairs by raising the issue. Mr van den Broek stressed today that he had discussed several other topics with Indonesian officials during his visit here, especially concerning bilateral relations. He said Indonesia expressed interest in receiving more technological and expert assistance from the Netherlands.

He also said that the Netherlands attached great importance to Asia. A conference of 12 Dutch ambassadors in the region reached the "single and uniform conclusion" that the area was promising as a politically stabilizing force and that its good economic prospects could also provide opportunities for Western countries, he said. Mr Van den Broek added that he invited his Indonesian counterpart, Dr Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, to visit the Netherlands.

PROPOSAL ON POLITICAL EXILE CAUSING CONTROVERSY

BK120807 Hong Kong AFP in English 0728 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 12 (AFP) -- A controversy here is brewing over a draft proposal on legislation which would give President Suharto full authority to exile opponents for up to 10 years within Indonesia. Copies of the confidential proposal are circulating in opposition and intellectual circles here, where it has been criticized for having "fascist overtones." The proposal provides for anyone regarded as posing a danger to the national Pancasila ideology, the Indonesian Constitution of 1945 and the National Development Programme to be banned from or exiled to certain places within Indonesia, according to the copies. It deems the law necessary to "uphold and preserve the nation's unity and to prevent the latent communist danger and other forms of subversion."

Over the past five years, the government has strongly promoted Pancasila, which embraces the five principles of belief in one God, humanitarianism, national unity, democracy based on consensus, and social justice.

Indonesia's top human rights body, the Legal Aid Institute (LBH) today issued a declaration asking the government to explain the proposal, which it said aims "to use the law as an instrument of repression." LBH director Mulya Lubis said the "obscure criteria" which would be applied [as received] under the new law provide a basis for anti-democratic policies.

Intellectual and opposition sources charged that if passed unchanged, the proposal would represent a throwback to the Dutch colonial era, when nationalist leaders were exiled to remote islands such as Flores, Bangka or Irian Jaya. However, a parliamentarian from the government party Golkar, Albert Hasibuan, told reporters today that he had no knowledge of the government's intentions to submit the proposal to parliament. He said it was against the law as it contradicted the principle that any proposal to restrict human rights must go through court.

Mr Hasibuan, a young lawyer from a liberal group within the Army-backed Golkar, said that definitions such as "posing a danger to Pancasila and the national development" were too vague and open to abuse.

Sources said that the draft was still at the proposal stage and was subject to change after consultation within the government. They said it had created a controversy within government circles as some considered it was too side-ranging and could be applied to practically anybody. A human rights lawyer here who asked not to be named said that it would be "astounding" if the proposal was submitted to parliament without changes. The legislation would give the president power to exile people, giving reasons, on the recommendation of ministers concerned with defence and security. The exile who would be given two weeks notice, may be ordered or allowed to be accompanied by his family. He could also choose his place of exile other than areas from which he was banned.

The exile would be banned from political activity in his new residence, where he would have to report every three months to the authorities, the copies of the draft said. If he engaged in political activity, he would be moved to a designated residence. The law would replace a presidential decree issued by the late President Suhkarno in 1962 under which the government has the authority to exile anyone "undermining the aims of the revolution."

Indonesia's subversion law, which carries a maximum penalty of death, has been used against opponents. However, since the attempted communist coup here in 1965, the only execution was that last year of Moslem extremist Imran bin Mohammed Zein last year, who wanted to set up an Islamic state in Indonesia.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES FUEL PRICE INCREASE

BK121747 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 2300 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] As a follow up of President Suharto's 1984/85 budget speech, the government will increase the domestic fuel oil price effective this Thursday. The fuel price hike was announced by Mining and Energy Minister Subroto on Wednesday through Radio Republik Indonesia and Televisi Republik Indonesia. In the announcement read by Minister Subroto, the new price for Kerosene is 150 rupiah per liter, industrial oil 220 rupiah, avigas 300 rupiah, avtur 300 rupiah, super gas 400 rupiah, premium gas 350 rupiah, diesel oil 200 rupiah, and bunker oil 200 rupiah.

MALAYSIAMUSA HITAM MEETS IRANIAN GROUP, URGES CAUTION

BK121309 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Malaysia is concerned over the danger of the Iranian Islamic revolution being misinterpreted and wrongly applied in the context of individual countries. Acting Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam says that when Malaysian leaders express this concern, they are only thinking of the effects in Malaysia, as the government does not want the Iranian situation to be misinterpreted locally. The message was put across by Datuk Musa when he met a 4-man Iranian delegation led by Director General of Economic Affairs Seyyed Mohammad Hussein Hoseyn 'Adeli in Kuala Lumpur today. He told the visitors that, though Malaysia was in the process of inculcating Islamic values in all aspects of the administration the sensitivities of the other races were also taken into account.

Datuk Musa spoke of the need to initiate bilateral relations on more practical terms. In this respect, Malaysia has a lot to offer to Iran, especially primary commodities. The acting prime minister feels that more direct trade should be established instead of the present system of trading through third parties.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. TIES ON EVE OF MAHATHIR VISIT

BK111459 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed leaves today for an official visit to Canada, the United States, France, and Switzerland. Of these four visits, the one to the United States will undoubtedly be the most significant. Malaysia's relationship with the other three countries have tended to be on an even keel all the time with very little disagreement in general. The relationship with the United States, on the other hand, has been marred by a number of irritants, particularly in the last couple of years.

The major irritant has been economic or related to economic matters. The first one that comes to mind is the policy or rather, from our point of view, lack of policy in its disposal of the GSA [General Services Administration] tin stockpile. Deliberately or otherwise, it appears to Malaysia and to other tin producing countries that the GSA releases take place most usually as now when the price of tin is depressed. Malaysia has not been quiet on this issue. In fact, it has been quite vocal in expressing its opposition to such moves. Other factors on which the United States and Malaysia find themselves on opposite side of the fence are the Law of the Sea, Antarctica, and West Asia. The problem may be that Malaysia under Dr Mahathir has become much more assertive and vocal in defense of its rights and interests, and the United States under the Reagan administration equally so. While it would appear to be fair that each country be so, the United States as a superpower has some added responsibilities and obligations because of its very size and strength.

The United States, as a major economic power and a leading industrialized nation, appears to have forgotten or rather ignored the interdependence of the world economically. No one is asking the United States to be altruistic, least of all Malaysia. What the United States has to realize is that self-interest alone dictates the necessity for that nation to pursue economic policies which will enable developing countries like Malaysia to grow and thus become a larger market for the United States itself.

It must also appreciate that Third World countries have become more assertive as they have got used to independence. They are not willing any more to continue under the tutelage of anyone, however benevolent he may be. Malaysia, like other Third World countries, though small, will no longer accept being ignored or set aside. It is up to the superpowers to recognize this fact and to agree that disagreement on individual matters, sincerely felt, need not be a hindrance to overall good relationship.

TIN PRODUCERS MEET, SEEK TO IMPROVE MARKET

BK121311 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The 2-day ministerial meeting of the Association of Tin Producing Countries [ATPC] began in Kuala Lumpur today to discuss interim measures to arrest the falling tin prices and to boost demand for the metal. ATPC's Executive Secretary (Mr Victor Sian) says the participants will also discuss how the association can assist the proposed physical and futures tin market on the Kuala Lumpur commodity exchange. The association's relation with the International Tin Research Institute and the Southeast Asian Tin Research and Development Center will also be looked into. A proposal on marketing and promotional programs will be submitted to the ministers for their consideration. Minister of Primary Industries Datuk Paul Leong is leading the Malaysian delegation. Other countries attending are Indonesia, Thailand, Bolivia, Zaire, Nigeria, and Australia.

SINGAPORE

NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER TALKS TO NEWSMEN

BK121655 Hong Kong AFP in English 1426 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Singapore, Jan 12 (AFP) -- Visiting Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said here today that the Soviet Union was unlikely to abandon its control over Vietnam because of the foothold it has gained in the Asia-Pacific region through aid to that country. In order to retain that control, Moscow might be "perfectly willing" to continue substantial economic and military aid to Vietnam although its economy is not strong enough to sustain such "tremendous" aid indefinitely. He told newsmen after his talks with Foreign Minister Suppiah Dhanabalan and Finance, Trade and Industry Minister Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, that he could not envisage any other country willing to take over the burden of aid to Vietnam from Moscow.

In view of these factors, Vietnam's stand on Kampuchea would be very much influenced by the Soviet Union. "I cannot see otherwise," he added. Mr van den Broek, who discussed the Kampuchean issue with Mr Dhanabalan and earlier in Jakarta with Indonesian leaders, said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) should press ahead with its demand for a zone-by-zone gradual withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea as a step towards a settlement.

The foreign minister said the European Economic Community was strongly behind ASEAN's "sensible move", embodied in its resolution passed by the United Nations last September with a large majority.

Asked whether the Netherlands would contribute to a multi-national peace-keeping force for Kampuchea as suggested in the ASEAN resolution, Mr van den Broek said, "we will consider such a request when it is made." He made it clear, however, that the Netherlands would prefer to participate in a peace-keeping force under the aegis of the United Nations. "We have a strong preference that these kind of operations be conducted under the U.N.," he added.

Mr van den Broek, who flew in yesterday from Jakarta on a four-day official visit, will have talks with Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew tomorrow. He returns home on Saturday.

POLICE INVESTIGATOR TESTIFIES ON AQUINO SLAYING

OW130234 Quezon City RPN Television Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] A PC [Philippine Constabulary] investigator insisted today that he interviewed PAL [Philippine Airlines] ground technician Ramon Balang 3 days after the assassination of former Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr The CIS [Crime Investigation Service] Special Operations Unit Chief, Major Reuben Zacarias, told the Agrava board that Balang had nothing to say on the Aquino slaying. Zacarias said that Balang was one of four PAL personnel who were interviewed 3 days after the incident, and Jose Carlos has this update.

[Begin video recording] [Carlos over video shot showing public hearing in progress] According to Captain Zacarias, Balang was at first reluctant to be interviewed. However, later on, he told him that when he heard shots, he immediately dropped to the ground. Zacarias said he even invited Balang to give a statement before the PCCIS [Philippine Constabulary Crime Investigation Service] at Camp Crame but Balang declined it and said it was not necessary since he saw nothing of the Aquino murder.

In an earlier testimony, Balang said the alleged assassin, Rolando Galman, could not have shot Aquino. He told the board he never met nor talked to Captain Zacarias about the incident. Today, Captain Zacarias gave this statement:

[Zacarias] maybe, he already forgot [words indistinct] that I was able to talk to him.

[Carlos] Another witness at today's public hearing at the SSS building was Major (Reuben) Alcantara, an Air Force intelligence officer, who testified that his team conducted an investigation on the alleged assassin without coordinating with the office of the PC Metrocom [Metropolitan Command] Chief, General Prospero Olivas, which was then in charge of investigating the assassination.

Alcantara led a team that went to (Aliaga), Nueva Ecija on 26 August to verify information that Galman was a resident of that province. He learned from an informant that Galman was wanted for several robbery and murder cases.

From his testimony, it appeared that Major Alcantara did not exhaustively verify such information through Saturnina Galman, mother of the alleged assassin, and her daughter Marilyn. Instead, he decided on his own to bring the Galmans to Manila to identify the cadaver at the PC crime laboratory in Quezon City which allegedly belonged to Rolando Galman. He said that it was on 27 August that the military confirmed the identity of the cadaver. However, the mother positively identified her son on 28 August after seeing the body twice at the laboratory.

Sergeant (Palbo Martinez) of AVSECOM [Aviation Security Command], who was in charge of the ramp guards, also wrapped up his testimony today. He positively identified Sergeant Leonardo Mojica of Avsecom intelligence as the man behind the luggage tug carrying a gun moments after the shooting. If you will recall Mojica was tagged as the mystery gun-wielding man photographed running away from the airport tarmac shortly after the assassination. Mojica was not supposed to be there, since earlier military witness indicated Mojica was assigned to go to gate 9 to assist in the crowd control operations there. [end recording]

Inquiry Receives More Photos

OW130755 Hong Kong AFP in English 0722 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Manila, Jan 13 (AFP) -- Military escorts left Benigno Aquino bleeding on the Manila airport tarmac for some time after the opposition leader was fatally shot, two photographs submitted to a board of inquiry indicated today.

The photographs, taken by presidential palace photographer Jolly Riofrir who testified at a public hearing of the probe board, showed that Mr Aquino was not immediately loaded into a nearby security van and rushed to a hospital. The two shots were among four taken by Mr Riofrir, president of the Press Photographers of the Philippines, who was among more than a dozen of local photographers allowed close to the jetliner bearing Mr Aquino.

Former Senator Aquino, 50, was gunned down last August 21 while under military escort as he returned from three years of self-exile in the United States. The government blames communist insurgents but the opposition holds the military responsible for the murder.

"The photos showed that there was no proper attention given to Aquino. It is clear indication that the Avsecom men were more concerned in going up the van than carrying the body of Aquino to the hospital," observed board member Luciano Salazar. Avsecom stands for the Aviation Security Command, the special security unit mainly assigned to protect President Ferdinand Marcos' political archrival from possible assassination attempts on his return. Published photos showed the bodies of Mr Aquino and his alleged assassin -- who was shot by the military escorts and described by the opposition as a "fall guy" -- lying on the airport tarmac behind an Avsecom van supposed to ferry Mr Aquino to a nearby military camp.

Mr Aquino, who was shot once in the back of the head, was declared dead on arrival at an Army hospital, while the bullet-riddled body of his alleged assassin, identified as ex-convict Rolando Galman, was left on the tarmac for several hours.

Retired Justice Corazon Agrava, chairman of the fact-finding board formed by President Marcos, today expressed dissatisfaction over the meager number of photos submitted by Mr Riofrir. She said she expected the witness to be an ace photographer. "Your other colleague finished two rolls of film. Why were you so afraid that you were lying prone all the time?" she asked the witness, who replied that he rolled in his film after taking four important shots.

Other lensmen who took pictures of the aftermath of Mr Aquino's slaying -- no one is known to have photographed the actual shooting -- had pointed to Mr Riofrir in earlier testimonies the man who confiscated their rolls of film allegedly on order of authorities. Mrs Agrava said it was "very careless" of the witness not to have asked for the receipts of the rolls of film negatives of the other media men which he surrendered to the office of Colonel Vicente Tigas of the presidential palace. "You have opened the door of suspicion," Mrs Agrava told the witness.

PRESIDENT APPOINTS NEW CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR

HK120418 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The president today appointed Jose Fernandez Jr as new governor of the Central Bank. He replaces Jaime Laya, who was earlier appointed as minister of education, culture, and sports. Fernandez was unanimously recommended by the government's financial team for the position of Central Bank governor. Fernandez is chairman and president of Far East Bank and Trust Company.

A seasoned commercial banker, Fernandez is respected here and abroad for his record as a banker and a businessman. He has extensive personal contacts with foreign bankers, some of whom are actively involved in the current Philippine negotiations for the restructuring of a major part of the external debts and a new commercial loan. Fernandez is known to be a strong discipline of an open market economy where forces of competition are allowed to set the ground rules. The appointment of Jaime Laya by the president as the new minister of education, culture, and sports has been welcomed by many sectors of society. Assemblyman Vicente Nario described the new education minister as a well-rounded person and having had many degrees to his credit.

HONG KONG-SHANGHAI BANK SUPPORTS \$75 MILLION LOAN

OW130217 Quezon City RPN Television Network in English 1300 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, in coordination with the Philippine Government, has approved in principle a \$75 million loan, according to outgoing Central Bank Governor Jaime Laya. This will help the country meet its foreign exchange requirements. Laya said the Central Bank and the Hong Kong bank have yet to discuss the terms and conditions of the loan, which would be the first from commercial sources for the year. The outgoing CB governor said one of the conditions is for the Central Bank to assure emergency advances to the state investment house, a quasi-bank hard hit by massive withdrawals and free termination of money market placements.

OPPOSITION ASKED TO SUBMIT NEW NOMINEE LIST

OW121447 Quezon City RPN Television Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The opposition has been asked anew to submit a list of better qualified, non-partisan nominees for appointments to the Commission on Elections. According to the president, the earlier list of nominees has been, as is quoted, disappointing, because it includes names of those who have either been involved in partisan politics or lack the qualifications to adopt a judiciously objective attitude required for an election commissioner. The president has called for only the best nominees who will represent the national welfare.

UNIDO DISSOCIATES ITSELF FROM ELECTION BOYCOTT

OW130225 Quezon City RPN Television Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The United Nationalist Democratic Organization, or UNIDO, has dissociated itself from the Kongreso Ng Mamayang Pilipino, or Kompil, which is advocating a boycott of the May elections. Appearing on "Tell the People" last night, former Senator Estrada Kalaw pointed out that Kompil is merely a sectoral group in the opposition camp.

[Begin Kalaw recording] It's free to make its own decisions independently of the Kompil, because, as we said, UNIDO did not join it. It's only our sectoral group that we sent. Not only that, one person cannot speak for UNIDO alone. We have a council of leaders where the president of each party that is in alliance with all of us under the UNIDO acronym is to sit and make our decisions; Kompil does not make decisions for us. UNIDO will make our own decisions by convening a council of leaders as chaired by Ambrosio Padilla. [end recording]

On the same program last night, Political Affairs Minister Leonardo Perez urged leaders of the opposition to have a strong party structure that could translate the people's sympathy for them into votes. For his part, Justice Ricardo Puno clarified the important provisions of the reregistration decree signed by the president yesterday.

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